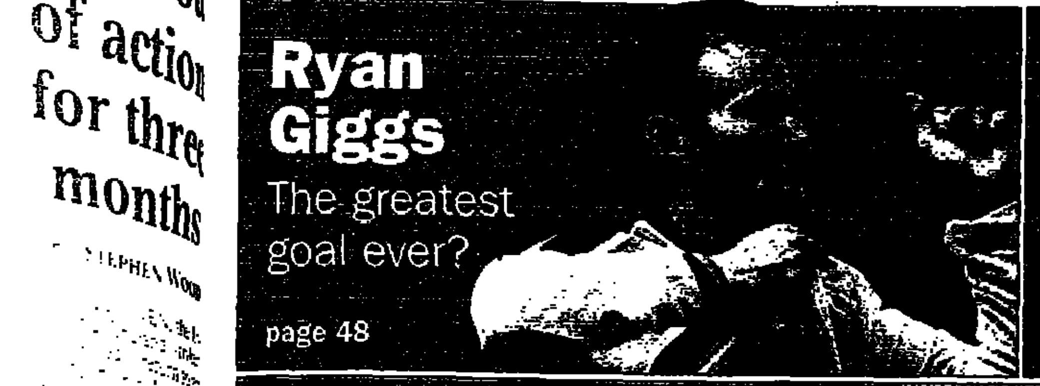
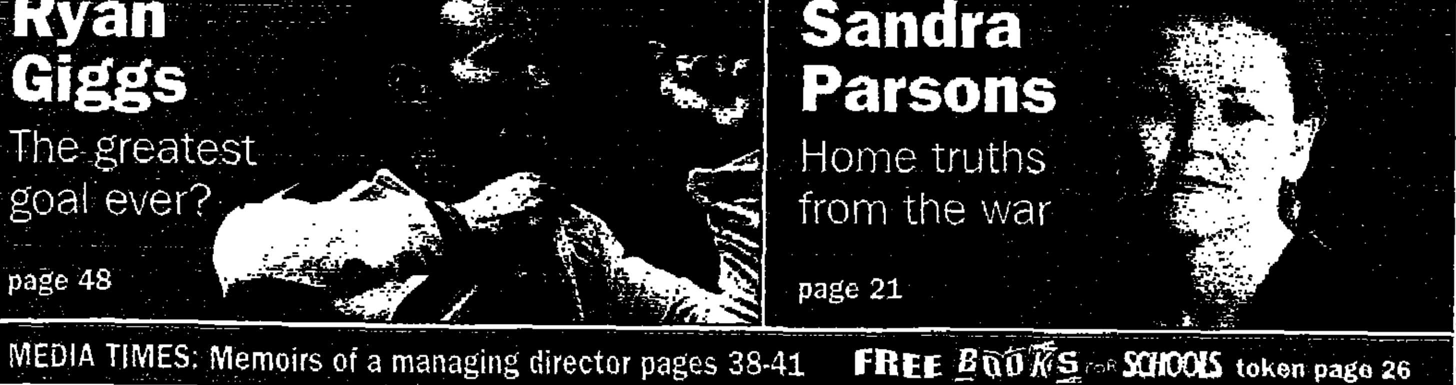
THE TIMES

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30p EVERY WEEKDAY

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Nato admits bombing convoy

Confusion over 'tragic accident' in which 72 died

By Michael Evans, Defence Editor, and Charles Bremner in Brussels

NATO'S admission yesterday that an American F16 pilot mistakenly bombed a convoy of fleeing Albanian refugees failed to resolve the confusing picture over the raid. Belgrade claims that at least 72 people were killed.

Nato released a transcript of the pilot's account of the bombing in which he said he fired at "three uniformly-shaped dark green vehicles" which he believed contained Yugoslav forces involved in setting fire to villages near Dakovica in southwest Kosovo.

Yesterday, Western journalists were taken by the Yugoslav authorities to see the wreckage of tractors and other vehicles on the Prizren to Dakovica road, which is used daily by civilian and military traffic.

Shrapnel with American military markings was seen scattered over the road.

With General Hugh Shelton, the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, warning Congress yesterday that allied airstrikes might have to continue until midsummer, the tragic error was being viewed as a major blow to the campaign.

Nato confirmed after many hours of confusing — sometimes contradictory — statements that a truck hit by the F16 had been carrying civilians. But officials were unable to give any estimate of casualties.

The precise location of the attack was also unclear. One Nato report indicated that the vehicles were on a dirt track, and yet pictures taken of the wrecked vehicles showed they were on a proper road.

Nato remained convinced that the convoy was being escorted by military vehicles.

Brigadier-General Giuseppe Marani, a Nato military spokesman, said another Nato aircraft had later attacked a second convoy comprising three trucks, but that they were carrying only Serb troops.

Adding further to the confusion, refugees arriving in Albania said that a column of vehicles they were travelling in was attacked by a Yugoslav MiG fighter and that at least six people were killed.

In a statement acknowledging responsibility for the attack on the refugee convoy, Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, expressed "deep regret" for the deaths. "Our Operation Allied Force was launched to save civilian lives, not expend them," he said.

However, he added: "Despite these accidents, we have to continue. One tragic accident cannot, and will not, undermine our commitment to saving lives or weaken our resolve.

"No conflict in history has ever been accident-free. We can reduce the risk of accidents but we cannot eliminate them altogether."

In Washington, William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said Nato would continue to intensify the bombing campaign. George Robertson, Britain's Defence Secretary, flew to Washington last night to hold talks with Mr Cohen about the way the campaign is progressing.

Tony Blair said the allies should not flinch from blaming President Milosevic for the deaths. He said: "We are not going to take any lessons from Milosevic about care for refugees when these refugees are actually in a convoy because they are fleeing from the butchery, the savagery, the rape, the torture, the mutilation, of ordinary innocent people."

The alliance said it had video footage from the bungled strike, but did not show it yesterday — as it did earlier this week after the air attack on a bridge near Leskovac which hit passenger train. Instead, it offered a post-mission recording by the unnamed US pilot who led a flight of two aircraft.

Although Nato appeared only to have confirmed that a single truck had been hit, Belgrade still insisted that at least 72 people had been killed. The Yugoslav authorities also claimed that the final death toll from the attack on the passenger train on Monday had risen to 55. Originally, the figure was ten, with 16 injured.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, while regretting the civilian deaths, said he had a number of questions he would like to ask Mr Milosevic.

He asked: "Why was this a mixed convoy of civilians and Serbian police? What precisely were the special police doing with these civilians? Were they there as human shields?"

Mr Cook also said he hoped that Western journalists taken to the scene would demand to visit all the sites in Kosovo where Yugoslav forces had committed atrocities against Albanians.

He said: "In this new spirit of openness, will Mr Milosevic allow those journalists to visit the sites of mass graves ... and the villages that have been shelled and torched and cleared?"

Underlining the intention to maintain round-the-clock bombing, there were further attacks reported yesterday on an army barracks at Rakovica and two television transmitters. There were also reports of 11 explosions in Pristina, the Kosovo capital.

RAF Harriers also took advantage of clear skies over Kosovo to step up their cluster bomb attacks on mobile targets.

Meanwhile, the Government and refugee organisations are drawing up plans for the arrival of several thousand refugees at Stansted airport.

GORAN TOMASEVIC/REUTERS



Two ethnic Albanian sisters, ten-year-old Sabrneta Nuraj, right, and Besijana, 11 months, in hospital in Dakovica. Their mother was killed in the Nato attack on the village of Meja

INSIDE

"My daughter talks into her toy phone: 'Yes, they threw bombs at their houses. Terrible, isn't it?' Of course she doesn't know what a bomb is. My stomach is weak with shock"

Sandra Parsons, married to a Serb doctor, Page 21

"The negotiations with the Serbs should be conducted by Nato and Russia jointly. Moscow has more influence with Belgrade than anyone else and the Russian public must be shown that the West sees Russia as having an essential role to play"

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, page 22

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John Simpson accused of Serb bias

By Philip Webster

JOHN SIMPSON, the BBC's veteran foreign correspondent, has run into fierce criticism from the Government over his coverage from Belgrade.

Mr Simpson, the World Affairs Editor, who has reported most of the big international conflicts of the past decade, has been accused by government sources of falling short of the standards expected of a leading journalist.

In an astonishing attack senior officials accused him of presenting at face value claims by the Serbs about damage done by Nato attacks, being grossly simplistic in suggesting that the Nato assault has united the Serb population and Milosevic's forces, and of swallowing Serb propaganda about the impact of Nato's air raids. In private, officials are using strong language. Although the BBC precedes all Mr Simpson's dispatches with a "health warning" explaining that they are being monitored by the Serbs, officials in Downing Street say that he fails to display scepticism.

The Government's critics are certain to say that in criticising such a respected correspondent it is overreacting.

But the criticisms of Mr Simpson are symptomatic of a wider dissatisfaction in the Government over the BBC's coverage of conflicts in which Nato is involved. Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's Press Secretary, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, all complained formally about the BBC's coverage during the Iraq bombingr.

"It did not change anything then and so far we have not officially complained this time," an informed government source said yesterday. "But it may well come to that."

Most of the criticism has been levelled by officials off-the-record. There was fury over a series of interviews Mr Simpson did with Serb civilians this week in which they declared that the Nato bombing had strengthened their support for Milosevic. They say that he should have pointed out that with the Serbs monitoring the media they could have hardly said anything different.

Yesterday there was anger over an assertion by Mr Simpson that the Serbs must have been sure of their ground on the responsibility for the Kosovo bombing accident because they were taking journalists to the site. One said: "Do us a favour John. There is a history of journalists being taken to see damage that has been self-inflicted."

The BBC strongly defended Mr Simpson. A spokesman said that his reports of what was happening in Belgrade had been confirmed by independent journalists based there. "He can move without security police in Belgrade but is at great personal risk on the streets. His television film packages are monitored but his voice reports on radio and TV are not and that is made clear."

Richard Ayre, deputy chief executive of BBC News, said: "I pay tribute to John Simpson's courage and the integrity of his reporting. It is important that audiences are given a true account of the public mood in Belgrade, not simply an account of what Nato governments might prefer to hear."

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Ex-MP cleared

The election fraud conviction against Fiona Jones, ex-MP for Newark, was quashed................Page 2

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Almost the cough that carried him off

By Mark Henderson

AN INNOCENT Welshman narrowly escaped a prison sentence after a judge misheard the jury's verdict because of a courtroom cough.

As the foreman of the jury at Cardiff Crown Court rose to deliver a "not guilty" verdict on Alan Rashid, 32, who was charged with making a threat to kill, a fellow juror cleared his throat.

Judge Michael Gibbon clearly heard "guilty" but the "not" was obscured and he jailed Mr Rashid for two years before thanking the jury for their efforts during the two-day trial and releasing them.

Mr Rashid was taken to the cells to begin his sentence and would have been none the wiser had not a confused juror asked a court usher why the defendant had been jailed after being found not guilty.

In a case believed to be the first of its kind in Britain, a bemused Mr Rashid was then led back to the dock and told by Judge Gibbon that he was free to go. He turned to his mother at the back of the court and punched the air.

Until the juror spoke up, his collegues had thought Mr Rashid must have been being sentenced for another charge that he had admitted. Nobody thought about the cough until Crown Prosecution Lawyers reviewed the court tape, on which it was clearly audible a split second ahead of a loud "guilty" from the foreman.

Nicholas Williamson, court manager at Cardiff Crown Court, said Mr Rashid had been "very relieved" by the eventual outcome. "It was a very bizarre situation," he said. "The foreman of the jury indicated a guilty verdict and the court proceeded to sentence the defendant."

A spokesman for the College of Law in Guildford later confirmed that Mr Rashid's escape was unique. "It is hard to be absolutely sure given the long history of English law but this is certainly the first case of this kind that my colleagues or I can think of," he said.



"Take this in your right hand and repeat after me ..."



Once upon a time, there were seven tax relief measures



"Are you sitting comfortably? Now, children, I want you to listen to some lovely stories which Aunty Patricia, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has been reading to MPs at Treasury Questions.

"Do sit still and listen carefully, because Trish has some very important things to tell you. They're a *tiny* bit complicated in places, but clever boys and girls, and I know you all are — *do* stop making faces, Master Maude — will understand all the *very nice things* Trish will explain about Uncle Gordon's wise and sensible economic policies.

"Oh — sorry, children — will you wait a moment while I just tell the grown-ups what we're doing?"

What we're doing, grown-ups, is introducing the Economic Secretary, Patricia Hewitt, at the Dispatch Box yesterday morning. Ms Hewitt, in whom I am having increasing difficulty in believing, wore an *eau-de-Nile* silk blouse with mega-shoulders, and radiated glitter-quality. You could imagine her stepping from a stretched white Cadillac.

And she addressed MPs in the most extraordinary manner. It took this sketchwriter back to infancy, watching a 1950s children's television programme called *Rag, Tag and Bobtail*, and hearing *Listen with Mother* on the BBC.

To get into the Hewitt groove, we must preface her answers with an imaginary fairytale opening; then interject the same tone into the real text. So *stop* fidgeting. Let's follow Aunty's answer to Richard Burden (Lab, Birmingham Northfield). But first ...

"This is the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. One morning, a *pretty* little girl called Goldilocks fetched her basket and filled it with *lovely* food for her grandmother, who lived in the forest and was *far* from well ...

"And *this* year's Budget contains the most *far reaching* package of environmental tax reforms *ever seen* in our country!

"There was a jar of *delicious* strawberry jam, a big, tasty cheese, and a crusty loaf of really *yummy* bread, *all* covered over with a pretty gingham tea-towel ...

"They include a *fifty five pound* reduction in Vehicle Excise Duty for *smaller* cars! *Fundamental* reform of company car taxation! Changes in fuel duty to encourage *cleaner* fuels! And *seven new tax relief measures!*"

Trish's fairytales were read so slowly, with such patronising emphasis, and with so many vastly significant pauses to help the children appreciate the wonderfulness of it all, that the temptation to make rude noises, pick our noses or throw our rattles on the floor was barely resistible.

Owen Paterson (Shropshire N) hardly did. Throwing a tiny tantrum from the Tory benches, he raged against "dirty foreign lorries" and was met by howls from all the children on the other side. That was a *very naughty* thing to say, Owen. You may say "dirty *Serb* lorries", but *foreign* lorries means *European* lorries, and Europeans are *nice* people — don't you remember Uncle Tony telling us that? Mr Paterson also accused Ms Hewitt of "trumpeting" the Government's claims. Wrong verb, surely? Aunty Patricia doesn't trumpet, she flutes. It is strangely menacing — Pinteresque. *Bad* boys and girls will have their *privileges* withdrawn, and maybe even their *fingers* chopped off.

But Joshua Dean, aged 7, is a good boy. He had written to Paul Goggins (Lab, Wythenshawe & Sale E) asking the Government to cancel third world debts. Mr Goggins read the letter, with approval, to the Chancellor. Uncle Gordon liked it, too. Apparently *thousands* of children agree. The Front Bench all nodded. Heaven help us.

Fraud appeal win reprieves Labour

Boothroyd is studying judgment that may restore Newark MP, report Roland Watson and Mark Inglefield

LABOUR appeared to have escaped the threat of a potentially embarrassing by-election yesterday when the Court of Appeal quashed the conviction for election fraud of Fiona Jones, the ex-MP for Newark.

Her counsel argued that the statutory definition of election spending was too wide to be fairly enforced. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, is to spend the weekend studying the judgment. She will rule on Monday whether the result gives Mrs Jones an automatic right to return to the Commons.

While careful not to take her decision for granted, the Labour hierarchy was confident that natural justice would earn Mrs Jones a parliamentary reprieve less than a month after a jury at Nottingham Crown Court made her the first MP for 75 years to be convicted of falsely declaring election expenses. A Labour spokesman said: "We are hopeful she will be reinstated as the MP for Newark early next week and that therefore a by-election need not take place."

Mrs Jones herself was even more sure that she would be able to return without defending her 3,000-majority. Immediately after yesterday's result, she insisted she would be returning. "I have had a very raw deal," she said.

Such a decision would save Labour from a crisis that was beginning to develop around its strategy for a by-election. With less than three weeks to go to their preferred date, the party was without a candidate. Brian Moore, the former England rugby player, had rebuffed heavy overtures, as revealed in *The Times* yesterday. Although Labour's national executive by-election panel had earmarked Nicholas Dakin, a


Boothroyd: will give her ruling on Monday

teacher and leader of North Lincolnshire council, as a possible contender, senior officials were split on whether to widen the search.

The result also prompted calls for a review of election law governing candidates' expenses, an area that is routinely flouted by all parties. Officials from all parties point out that much of the current guidance given to candidates is out of date, covering the cost of sending telegrams but not the cost of using mobile telephones. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is expected to publish guidance for the proposed Electoral Commission before the summer which would cover much of the ground. Ministers may also look at redrafting Schedule 3 of the Representation of the People Act.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, sitting with Mr Justice Moses and Mr Justice Penry-Davey, ruled in Mrs Jones' favour after her counsel argued that definitions in the 1983 Act were too wide to be fairly enforced. The judges also indicated they would allow the appeal of her election agent, Des Wicher, 73.

The case against her was sparked partly by feuding within the local Labour Party, which remains suspended. The Tories accepted that Mrs Jones should be reinstated if the Speaker ruled in her favour. The Liberal Democrats said that the case revealed the extent to which electoral law needed to be reformed. "Electoral law has been clouded with uncertainty and anomalies for far too long," said Nick Harvey, campaigns co-ordinator.


Fiona Jones after her court victory yesterday: the law may now be reformed

Mother of three missing in snow

By Helen Rumbelow

A MOTHER of three has been lost in snowstorms on the west coast of Wales for more than 24 hours, a victim of the treacherously cold weather hitting the west coast of Britain.

Freezing winds from the Arctic are being dragged down over Cumbria, Lancashire, Wales and the South-west by a depression over the North Sea.

As fresh snow fell last night police stepped up a search for the 47-year-old woman, from the Lamphey area of Tenby, who did not return from a walk with her dog on Wednesday evening. She had set out along the coastal path above the Freshwater East Beach near Tenby as snow began to fall at 7pm.

The country's heaviest snow fell in Wales in the early hours of yesterday, with up to six inches in the Valleys around Merthyr and Aberdare. The M4 was blocked by snowfalls and ice overnight, forcing the closure of the motorway near Cardiff during the morning rush hour.

Two climbers were rescued from Ben Nevis yesterday, after being caught in snowstorms on Wednesday night. One of them called for help by ringing his girlfriend on his mobile phone, and they were winched to safety by helicopter.

Forecast, page 26

Ulster parties called to talks at Downing St

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

TONY BLAIR and Bertie Ahern last night summoned Northern Ireland's three main political parties to Downing Street next Monday in yet another attempt to prevent the Good Friday peace accord from unravelling.

They all but admitted that their last attempt, the Hillsborough Declaration, had failed.

The two Prime Ministers will hold a fresh round of meetings with the Ulster Unionists, Sinn Fein and the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party in a new effort to end the deadlock over IRA disarmament that is blocking the formation of the Province's executive. Shortly before Easter the two men produced the Hillsborough Declaration, after 40 hours of talks over four days, but yesterday, after meeting Mr Blair at Downing Street, the Taoiseach all but admitted that that plan had failed. "It's clear to us the Hillsborough Declaration has not got the widespread support we would like," he said.

The leaders gave no hint last night that they had any new ideas for ending the impasse. Officials said the two would use Monday's meetings to "find out where the parties are and if there's room for manoeuvre". After three days of fruitless talks at Stormont this week it is evident that the parties themselves have nothing new to offer.

Mr Ahern insisted that he and Mr Blair were "absolutely determined and will do everything humanely possible and within our power" to implement last year's accord.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, admitted that "we are in difficult times", but insisted: "What we must never forget is that the parties are still talking. That's what's important." She pledged to keep the talks going as long as necessary, but acknowledged that the impending Euro-elections and marching season would diminish the chance of a compromise.

The Declaration pleased Unionists by acknowledging that Sinn Fein could not sit on an executive without the IRA beginning to disarm, but sought to remove all connotations of surrender from the act of decommissioning.

Sinn Fein rejected the declaration, calling it a rewriting of the accord. The loyalist Progressive Unionist Party, the centrist Alliance party and the Women's Coalition were also sharply critical of it. The Ulster Unionists reserved judgment.

☐ Loyalists yesterday pushed pipebombs through the letter boxes of two Roman Catholic families in Randalstown, Co Antrim; neither device exploded.

£3m trial on impact of GM crops

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE health of the earthworm, as well as insects and plants, is to play a key role in government decisions on the future of genetically modified crops.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, told the House of Commons yesterday that £3.3 million is to be spent over the next four years on "farm scale" trials to compare the impacts of gene modifed oil seed rape and maize on the wider environment.

The studies, to be carried out by a number of research centres led by the Natural Environment Research Council's Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, are to survey insect and plant life in and around the tests fields.

Mr Meacher said the studies would also focus on the health of the earth below ground level. "For example, earthworm population monitoring provides a good indicator of the structure and fertility of the soil," he told MPs. "Above ground environmental impact will be studied, again by carrying out surveys of plant and populations and invertebrates."

The first trials, covering the impact of herbicide-tolerant crops, are taking place this year. GM oilseed rape has been planted in Wiltshire.

It is hoped to build up to around 20 test sites across the country. They will reflect the differing conditions in Britain in which such crops are likely to be grown. Dr Brian Johnson of English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, and a member of a Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions steering committee on gene-altered crops, said yesterday that they would be vigorously monitoring the crop trials.

The Government is hoping to agree a voluntary moratorium on commercial plantings of GM crops until the farm scale trials have been completed and analysed. So far the industry has refused.

CORRECTIONS

A report (Are superstores cheating you?, April 9) wrongly quoted John Bridgeman, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, as saying their inquiry into the £60billion supermarket business had been inconclusive. In fact, what Mr Bridgeman said was that the level of profitability disclosed required further investigation.

The BBC has not lost three million listeners because of changes to parliamentary coverage (report, March 30). When given the choice of listening to Today on FM or Yesterday in Parliament on long wave, 82 per cent stay with Today.

Peter Duffy QC (obituary, April 12) wrote a column for the Solicitors Journal, and not, as reported, for the Law Society Gazette.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£20,000 for inmates' salmonella poisoning

Thirteen inmates at Dartmoor prison have won a total of £20,000 in compensation after they were affected by an outbreak of salmonella poisoning. The Prison Service gave the inmates sums ranging from £1,350 to £1,750 after they threatened legal action. The prisoners became ill after raw sewage leaked on to the jail's farm, passed through inmates working with cattle and spread to other prisoners. Those affected were sick for between one and three weeks.

Caring jail 'too soft', page 3

Obstetrician who fled is struck off

An obstetrician who fled Britain after the death of a baby boy he delivered by forceps was yesterday struck off the medical register for serious professional misconduct. Helmi Nour, a former locum registrar at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, who practises in Saudi Arabia, was found by the General Medical Council to have used undue force in delivering Amos Tutt, who died an hour after he was born in August 1997.

Youth held over Briton's killing

A 14-year-old has been arrested for the murder in Cape Town of the British photographer John Rubython, who was stabbed to death in an apparent burglary attempt this week, South African police said. A blood-stained knife and bloodied clothing were recovered during the arrest. Mr Rubython, 58, who recently became a father, was a well-known figure in Cape Town. He had been working as a television producer.

Man, 90, 'beaten to death by gang'

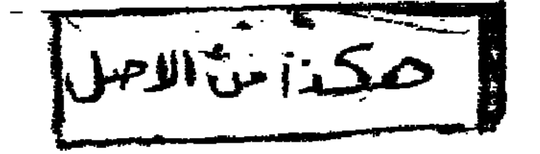
A 90-year-old war veteran died after being beaten, tied to a chair and gagged in his home by a gang of robbers, Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court was told. Thomas Hall was left for the night after the robbers switched off his heating and electricity on one of the coldest nights of 1997. Four men deny murder, manslaughter, conspiracy to rob and robbery; three deny conspiracy to rob and two others deny lesser offences.

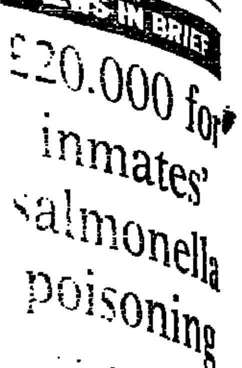
Comedian gets stamp of approval

Norman Wisdom was presented with a specially mounted Penny Black stamp to mark his 50-year career in showbusiness. The 84-year-old comedian was making an appearance at Stamp '99, a four-day international exhibition being staged at Wembley Conference Centre in London. Asked if he had collected stamps as a boy, he said: "I just stick them on the letters and send them. It's a very nice, warm gesture."

Wolf shot after killing sheep

A wolf that escaped from Port Lympne Zoo, owned by the millionaire John Aspinall, killed three rams before being shot. The Canadian timber wolf leapt over the top of its enclosure and killed the animals more than two miles away. Villagers at Aldington, Kent, also reported seeing "a large black dog" chasing horses before the sheep died. Zoo officials said the wolf was not a threat to humans but pledged a security review.





Royals spare the horses and hire bus

By Alan Hamilton

ROYALTY once arrived by carriage procession. Yesterday a rented bus carried a motley collection of the European reigning and deposed to a family occasion to which they all claimed some relationship, distant though it may have been.

The event was the christening of Prince Konstantine Alexios, grandson of King Constantine, one-time monarch of Greece, at the Greek cathedral of St Sophia in Bayswater, West London. Among the eight godparents in attendance, the undoubted star attraction was Prince William, performing his first major solo engagement. His left arm was heavily strapped in a sling after an operation on his index finger to repair a rugby injury.

Monarchy is not yet an entirely redundant profession. Present at the hour-long service were the young heirs to the thrones of Denmark, Spain and Sweden, along with such other active royalty as Queen Sophia of Spain and Princess Caroline of Monaco.

But the redundant were also represented, not least by Prince Dimitri of Yugoslavia, a 40-year-old New York jewellery expert whose family have recently made a public denunciation of President Milosevic. After the service the guests attended a party at Claridge's, an entirely appropriate venue as part of the hotel was briefly declared Yugoslav territory in 1944 when the present claimant to the Belgrade throne, Crown Prince Alexander, was born there.

Prince William looked more at ease than usual as family and friends stood on the steps of the cathedral for photographs. The baby, born in New York and wrapped yesterday in a long white christening robe, was held first by his mother and father, Crown Prince and Princess Pavlos of Greece, and then by his grandfather. Prince William stood next to the parents, but with one arm *hors de combat* he was unable to take his turn at holding the infant.

Prince Konstantine will be brought up in New York. His mother, Marie-Chantal, is the daughter of Robert Miller, the American duty-free retail billionaire.

Prince William now has new responsibilities as a godfather, but they should not be too onerous. King Constantine, in a television interview last night, said: "It does not require too much from him — just a phone call once a year."

RICHARD POHLE


Prince Konstantin sleeps through the attentions of his mother, left, grandfather and British godfather, Prince William in Bayswater yesterday

Prince of Poms tells it straight

THE Prince of Wales told school pupils yesterday how he was referred to as a "Pommy bastard" when he spent time in Australia as a 16-year-old.

During a visit to Manchester Grammar School, the Prince, in jocular mood, also spoke about a walking holiday in Australia.

"On one occasion I managed to do 60 miles in one weekend and I climbed four peaks, one of which is called — and this always amuses the teenagers — Mount Buggery."

The Prince was told about how the 484-year-old public school was building links with a nearby inner-city comprehensive. Sixth-formers act as "buddies" to pupils at Ducie High School and teachers are involved in a mentoring scheme.

The Prince said his sons advised him to keep school talks short and funny. He then recalled how he had once heard a fellow speaker give a warning about bad language. "There was a gust of wind and I heard myself say into the microphone, '*Damn, my bloody notes have flown away*'."

Photograph, page 26

GP 'murdered elderly patient with injection'

By Tim Jones

A "DEDICATED, caring and well-liked doctor" went on trial for murder yesterday, accused of killing an elderly, bedridden patient by deliberately administering a fatal dose of diamorphine.

The court was told that David Moor, 52, committed the murder in July 1997 when he ended the life of George Liddell, 85, who had undergone an operation for bowel cancer.

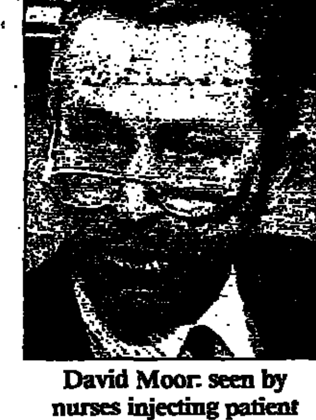
The jury was told that the prosecution followed a police investigation arising from media interviews in which Dr Moor had said that he had administered many lethal injections over a 30-year period to relieve dying patients of their pain and distress.

Dr Moor, now retired, had been a single-handed GP in the village of Fenham, in Northumberland.

James Goss, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury at Newcastle Crown Court that the case followed an article written by a Michael Irwin, a doctor, in *The Sunday Times*, in which he said he had helped numerous patients to die.

In a follow-up interview with the Press Association, Dr Moor said that he had administered two doses of diamorphine — a pharmaceutical heroin used as a strong painkiller — to two of his patients in recent weeks and, over 30 years, had given many lethal injections.




David Moor: seen by nurses injecting patient

Dr Moor said in the interview that he "aggressively supported" what Dr Irwin was doing and that those against euthanasia should witness the distress of dying patients and their relatives before "having the temerity to come to me and argue the case against euthanasia".

In another interview, Mr Goss said, Dr Moor repeated that he had helped a lot of people to die over the years and said that, to do it, he would "go in with a fairly high dose of diamorphine".

Although Dr Moor said in the interview that he accepted he was probably breaking the law, or was on the fringe of breaking it, he did not anticipate being prosecuted and claimed he would not be struck off the medical register.

Later, after Mr Liddell's death, Dr Moor told Rachel Chapman, head of communications for the NHS executive for the area, that he had two patients in the past week who were ready to go and that their relatives were ready for them to go. He didn't have a problem with it and "we can give them a more comfortable exit".

A post-mortem examination of Mr Liddell's body showed that death was due to an overdose of morphine.

Mr Goss added: "The prosecution case is simple: Dr Moor deliberately ended the life of George Liddell by administering a fatal dose of diamorphine. His primary intention was to end life."

He added: "This is not a trial about the merits or demerits of euthanasia, or mercy killing. It is a straightforward alleged case of a doctor deliberately ending the life of a patient in his care."

He said Dr Moor, who visited Mr Liddell only twice, increased his medication to 30 milligrams of diamorphine to be taken every six hours for 24 hours.

The next day, he said, Dr Moor visited the house and was seen by nurses attempting to inject Mr Liddell, who was then unconscious, in the neck, the hand and, finally, in the left thigh.

Mr Goss said an inability to account for 300mg of diamorphine appeared to be consistent with the level of morphine taken from Mr Liddell's body. The case continues.



Supporters of Dr Moor outside the court yesterday

Dying student 'begged his killers for help'

By Richard Duce

A TERRIFIED college student begged to know why he was being stabbed to death by his two closest friends, a teenager who has admitted the murder told a hushed courtroom yesterday.

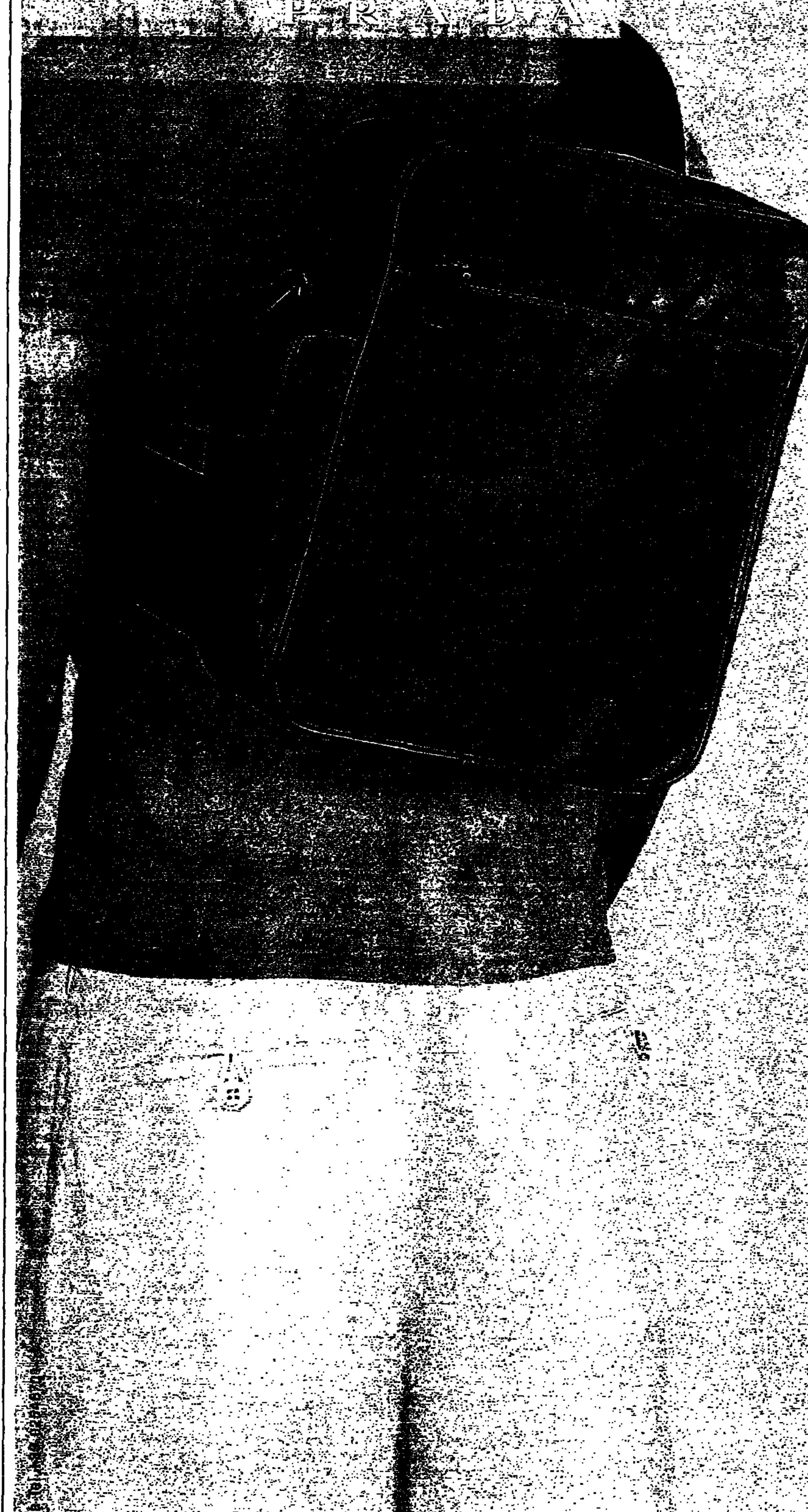
In a matter-of-fact manner, Graham Wallis relived the final moments of Russell Crookes, 17, but could offer no real reason for why he decided to murder his friend. Wallis, 18, is the chief prosecution witness against Neil Sayers, 19, who denies that he was also involved in the murder. The trio was almost inseparable and had formed a survivalist group called The Brotherhood while studying horticulture at Hadlow College in Kent.

In in May last year all three had set off for woods in the college grounds and built a fire. Russell's friends had decided to kill him, apparently because he had become a bully, Maidstone Crown Court was told. Wallis, from Croydon, South London, said that Mr Sayers had attacked Russell in a field near the woods.

"Neil stopped stabbing Russell and moved away a bit and Russell asked him why he'd done it. Neil said nothing and then went back and stabbed Russell again," he said. "After Neil stopped stabbing him again he again asked 'Why?' before turning to me and asking me to help him. I moved towards Russell and because he had started making a kind of roar or noise I put my hand over his mouth and then I tried to stab Russell in the neck and round the head."

Wallis said that he and Mr Sayers had burned their friend's body, and later buried it in a shallow grave. The prosecution allege that Russell was dismembered before burial but Wallis told the court that one arm and one leg had come away during the fire.

Mr Sayers, from Gillingham, denies murder. The trial continues.



Old lags find caring jail too soft

Prisoners hanker for 'mutual antipathy', reports Richard Ford

PRISONERS at Britain's first privately-run prison have asked to be moved to state-run institutions because the staff are too friendly. The shock of being addressed as "Mr" or by their first names, or finding spotless reception areas, has proved too much for some inmates at the Wolds on Humberside. Some have requested that they be returned to jails characterised by the more familiar "mutual antipathy" between staff and prisoners.

Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons, says in his inspection report today that for others, being treated with respect and challenged about their behaviour has caused them to seek solace in their cells. "Many prisoners with long experience of time served in many public sector prisons over many years described to me and my team the cultural shock that they had experienced of stepping into a spotlessly clean reception area where they were treated as human beings," Sir David says. He adds that for a very few the cultural change of being treated with respect and as a fellow human being was a step too far.

His report says many inmates with long histories of imprisonment were happier to remain on the "narrow tramlines" of traditional institutional life rather than be made to work and attend education classes. "They tend to retreat behind their doors, and a few ask to be 'shipped out'."

Sir David praises the jail, run by Group 4, for creating a humane, safe and caring community. Inmates were on first-name terms with staff, who addressed them as Mr, shared meals with them and treated them as individual human beings. The reception process was "no more threatening than checking in at the airport" and bullying, drug use and graffiti were not common.

Group 4, which was unable to say how many inmates had asked for a transfer, said it was delighted with the inspector's verdict that privately run prisons had "shown their worth".

Laser systems no substitute for low flying

Michael Evans tracks the hi-tech planes that attacked the wrong target

THE two US Air Force F16s had taken off from Aviano in Italy shortly after lunch on a "search and destroy" mission over Kosovo. Armed with laser-guided bombs, they flew over the Adriatic towards the southwest of the Yugoslav province, where Serb troops and special police had been seen burning villages.

They reached Kosovo within an hour and began circling looking for Serb forces out in the open carrying out "ethnic cleansing" operations. Like all allied pilots, the leading F16 pilot, backed by his wingman, was bound by the strictest rules of engagement. He was to release his bombs only when he had properly identified the target.

For a pilot on a mission to seek out and destroy moving targets, as opposed to fixed sites, it was always going to be a more dangerous operation. While trying to distinguish between a military vehicle and a civilian one, the F16 pilots had to keep a constant lookout for anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missile attacks.

Flying at 15,000ft — medium altitude — the lead F16 pilot saw what he thought were Yugoslav Army and special police vehicles. At that point, the F16s were flying north of Dakovica, a big town. Mindful of his rules of engagement, the F16 pilot and his wingman made several passes over the vehicles to ensure the first impressions were accurate.

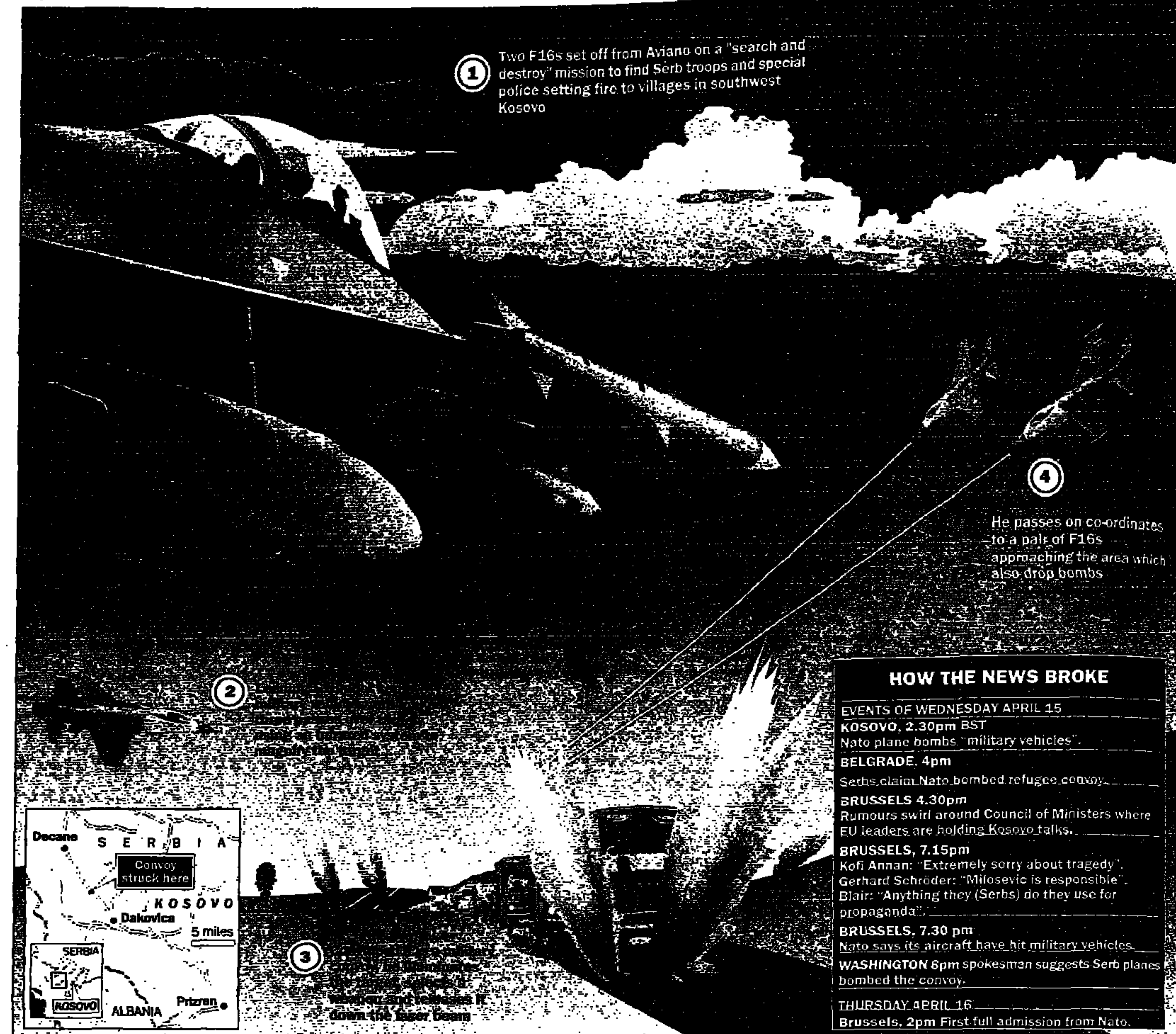
The weather was not helpful. It was cloudy, but there were breaks in the cloud. The laser system on board, vital for guiding bombs to their targets, gets deflected through cloud. So he had to pick his moment to laser-designate the target while he had sight of the Yugoslav military vehicles.

The laser system fitted to the F16s is called Lantirn — "low altitude navigation and target infra-red for night". It is fitted inside a pod mounted on the wing and can function from 40,000ft. Both F16Cs and F16Ds carry the system. The pilot used onboard technology to magnify the infrared image he was receiving in his head-up display in the cockpit to get a closer look at the target — similar to looking through a telescope. However, the infra-red image would have been similar to a negative. "It's not like looking at a photograph," an expert from Jane's Information Group said. More advanced systems being developed in America will have a much sharper image.

The pilot satisfied himself that he could see three military vehicles and illuminated the target with a laser before selecting a weapon. F16s have a range of weapon systems, including Maverick missiles, Paveway bombs and "dumb" bombs. Smart bombs have clip-on guidance noses.

So sure was he that he had attacked a military vehicle that he passed on the co-ordinates to a pair of F16s which had followed them from Aviano. The second pair also released bombs, although it was claimed they attacked vehicles in a compound, not a convoy. Refugee witnesses said the convoy was hit a second time.

The Lantirn system was designed to detect and track targets, yet the F16 pilot was initially unable to spot that some vehicles were tractors and horse-drawn carts, indicating that despite the advanced technology, there is no substitute for flying low, seeing the enemy close to, and dropping bombs from close quarters.



'I make a decision — these are the people who are burning down villages'

THE following is the text of recorded comments by the pilot involved in bombing the convoy, from a tape played during a media briefing at Nato headquarters. His name was not released.

"We worked various targets throughout the morning with not a lot of success due to the weather. Sometime around 11 o'clock [GMT] I spotted near Dakovica what looked to be IDP [internally displaced persons] convoy that was stacked up on the west side of town.

I moved north from there to look and see what the reason for the flood of refugees was at the town of Dakovica and what I found was a series of villages that had been set on fire, entire villages set on fire. As I moved up to the north I found the first village that had been set on fire, it looked like it had been burning for quite a long time and it was about to burn out.

Then as I move further south I see the next village south on fire, pressure fire, still burning vigorously. A cloud cover was in the way, I moved further to the south, orbit the area, I'm able to see underneath the cloud now to the second village that was on fire and I'm able to see now another smaller village that is even a fresher fire.

So the picture that I'm building now in this southwestern part of Kosovo is MUP [Interior Ministry Police] and VJ [Yugoslav Army] forces methodically working themselves from the north to the south through villages, setting them ablaze and forcing all the Kosovo Albanians out of their villages. I work my way down an LOC [line of communication] that runs southeast into the town of Dakovica. On that LOC there weren't any villages to burn but as you worked your way southeast every house on that road was set ablaze.

I see close to Dakovica what looks like civilian vehicles flowing into the town and to the chokepoint where I saw the 60-plus vehicles stacked out to the east. I work my way back up to the road and I see another house that has just been ablaze and I spot the three-vehicle convoy moving southeast about a click [kilometre] from the freshest burning house. I [inaudible] my wingman's eyes on to the convoy and explain to him what [inaudible] down there. We see three uniformly shaped dark green vehicles, look like deuce-and-a-half troop carrying vehicles.

They come to a stop at the next house down the road and I'm convinced now that's the VJ and MUP forces working their way towards Dakovica and the refugees and they're preparing to set this house on fire.

I take my system, my targeting pod and I make several passes over these vehicles to ensure they are in fact military vehicles. I roll in on two passes to get a close look, both with my eyeballs and with my targeting pod. IR [infra-red] picture and at this point it's about 25 minutes into building the whole picture of the destruction that is falling from north to south into Dakovica and I make a decision . . . that these are the people responsible for burning down the villages that I've seen so far. I go in, put my system on the lead vehicle and execute a laser-guided bomb attack on that vehicle, destroying the lead vehicle.

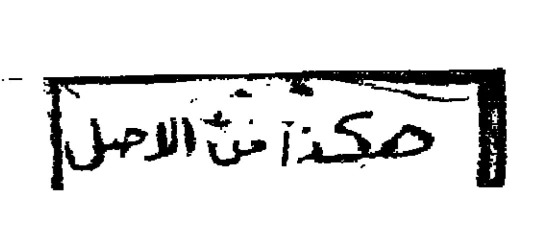
From there, my wingman is low on fuel so we end up having to depart the area. On my way out of the area I pass my BDA [Bomb damage assessment] to AB triple C [Airborne Command Control and Communications] and to the forward air controller who is coming in to replace me. I pass him the target co-ordinates, a threat update of the area and a general description of the three-vehicle convoy.

From that point I leave the AO [area of operations] and we RTB [return to base] and [name deleted] finds the target area that I briefed him and he now spots three large trucks in the middle of a compound of the house, housing area, next to where we had just attacked and he proceeds to execute a [inaudible] attack on those vehicles.

I'd like to show you on the map to give you a picture . . ."

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Charred corpses litter site of attack



Tom Walker reports from Meja on horrific scenes amid a landscape already laid waste by the Yugoslav advance


GORAN TOMASEVIC / REUTERS

A wrecked tractor and houses yesterday near the village of Meja, site of Wednesday's disastrous Nato bombing in which 72 civilians appear to have been killed

CHARRED and dismembered corpses, wrecked tractors and a pathetic trail of personal belongings yesterday still lay on the Prizren to Dakovica road in southern Kosovo — evidence the Yugoslav Army presented to journalists in its biggest anti-Nato propaganda coup in three weeks.

The army said at least 72 ethnic Albanian refugees died on Wednesday afternoon as their long, straggling convoy was systematically bombed by a low-flying Nato jet.

A full day afterwards, many of the corpses and body parts remain where they had been blown.

Much remained unclear about the bombing — whether, for example, the refugees had been accompanied by the police and Yugoslav Army at the time. But where the refugees were travelling and whether they were coerced — even if they were being driven from Kosovo — was irrelevant. The clear facts on view were that they were horrendously burned and mutilated in a Nato bombing raid that went disastrously wrong.

Colonel Slobodan Strojanovic, who led the trip through what he warned journalists was a military zone "targeted by air from Nato and from the terrorists on the ground" said the horror on view proved once and for all that Nato wished to inflict as many civilian casualties as possible.

"The jet took four sweeps at civilian targets, with the clear aim to kill as many as possible," he said. "This disproves utterly everything Nato says about so-called collateral damage."

Dozens of tractors and trailers littered a six-mile stretch of road, running along the flat valley bisected by the Drin and Bistrica rivers. The road has been an important conduit for refugee movements in the past four weeks, helping Albanians to flee a vicious clampdown by the Serb security forces in the area, also much in evidence yesterday.

The army's objective, however, was to show that the carnage was by Nato — and it did not seem to care that most villages we passed through en route were smouldering wrecks. Some communities had no houses left intact, and in Velika Krusa just outside Prizren, the mosque had been almost totally destroyed. Prizren itself was a ghost town. The former base of British monitors in Kosovo, its streets were eerily deserted and the few inhabitants brave enough to speak said the majority of the city's 200,000 people had fled.

The army showed three sites along the road hit by the Nato jet. At the first a bloodstained tractor had careered across the field, embedding itself in a railway line. Other trailer parts and refugee debris lay scattered all about the bomb crater. At a second site there were three bomb craters, and a body of a man lay hurled into a tree.

But the most gruesome scene was at the third site. In the village of Bistrazin, six bodies lay cheek by jowl in the grass meadow beneath the road, five of them women.

Worse was to come: a head lay further up the meadow, and near it a forearm and hand.

On the road itself a half-charred corpse lay slumped across the steering wheel of a smashed tractor, slewed crazily across the shrapnel-pitted tarmac.

On its trailer lay an indeterminate number of blackened body parts, and one leg hooked over the back of the trailer.

A few yards away pieces of brain tissue lay spattered about across the road.

'I forgive Nato for killing my husband and daughter'

FROM SAM KILEY IN MORINE, NORTHERN ALBANIA

SURVIVORS of the accidental Nato attack on a column of Kosovan refugees yesterday contradicted Nato spokesmen who said their convoy might have included military vehicles and personnel.

They said they had already forgiven Nato for the killing of at least 20 people in two attacks on the same convoy. But they were bemused by Nato suggestions that they had been part of a mixed column of Serb military and their Kosovo Albanian victims.

"There were no troops among us. We passed them on the road and they told us to get going all the time. But there were no vehicles, none at all, from the army with us. We were alone and walking for four days," said Faisa Cela, whose husband and 14-year-old daughter were killed in the Nato blunder.

However, refugees from another column which had not been attacked gave the first absolute confirmation that Serb forces were using civilians as cover against Nato airstrikes. They said that they had been forced to walk for four days while Serb soldiers rode on their lorries among them.

Mostly from the villages around Dakovica, many confirmed that they had walked either side of a road while the Serbs rode in protected luxury on looted tractors. "Those who could not keep up were killed. We just had to stay close to their tractors so that they would not be hit," said Miusheka Xani, 18.

But Mrs Cela had been in a convoy without Serbs where she was sitting in a trailer dragged by a tractor which was destroyed along with three others by what Nato said were two aircraft.

Arold Isegg, a Nato spokesman, said that a pilot who had seen Serbs torching village after village had spotted what he thought was a military convoy and attacked it with two bombs. A fellow pilot struck the most devastating blow, hitting the tractors. That was confirmed by many witnesses, all of whom had lost loved ones in the strikes and had themselves been wounded.

Mrs Cela's hands were badly burnt, her knees and head had been cut with flying debris. Her surviving son was hit in the arm. "I don't believe it was Nato. But if it was, I forgive them for taking my daughter and my husband. They are already forgiven. They are trying to save our people, not kill them like the Serbs are," she said.

Mehmet Byrani, a farmer, who had a shoulder wound, said: "It was very fast, so I could be wrong. There were two attacks, and then there were bodies and bits of people all over the place."

Others who survived the attack close to the village of Krushe Made, about ten miles north of Pristina, stuck to their story that they had been bombed by Serb aircraft.

US public warned of long campaign

Congress cautioned that bombing may continue until midsummer, reports **Ian Brodie** in Washington

AMERICA'S military leaders prepared Congress and the public yesterday for the likelihood that Nato's bombing campaign in Yugoslavia could stretch into midsummer.

"This is not going to be quick or easy or neat," said William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, during a Senate Armed Services committee hearing that was marked by criticism of the Clinton Administration and Nato policy.

Mr Cohen amended his earlier warnings of the possibility of casualties to say there was a "probability of casualties".

There was still no plan to commit ground forces, and to those who believe that Nato should use them he said: "The reasons that we have gone forward as we have with an air campaign is that there was not a consensus in the Nato alliance to do anything but this."

Mr Cohen regretted the civilian deaths from Nato striking a refugee convoy on Wednesday, but he also spoke of the pressures on pilots having to make split-second decisions, flying at high speeds under anti-aircraft attack. Nato goes to extraordinary lengths to avoid hitting civilians, he said.

In earlier closed-door briefings with congressional officials, military leaders had cautioned that Nato is poised to go on with bombing, which reaches its 25th day today, for several weeks longer and possibly into midsummer if Serb forces continue to fight Kosovan Albanians and harass refugees.

General Hugh Shelton, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said that bad weather has frequently hampered the bombing raids, but the Balkan skies usually clear in June.

The Pentagon also disclosed that Serb air defences have become more robust, with dozens of Sam missiles fired at allied aircraft during the previous two days in the biggest demonstration of anti-aircraft fire so far.

Signs of a longer war than anticipated initially have grown significantly this week. Some 82 fresh American aircraft began arriving in Europe yesterday. Washington is close to approving 300 more combat planes, bringing Nato's total to more than 1,000, and the 24 Apache attack helicopters could soon be doubled to 48. Each deployment begs the unanswered questions: why now and why not at the start?

For Americans, the escalation evokes unsettling echoes of Vietnam where troop levels were enlarged constantly in search of the elusive "light at the end of the tunnel".

At yesterday's hearing, John McCain, a Republican senator and a former prisoner-of-war in Hanoi, was unsparing in his analogy between Vietnam and Kosovo, making the point that President Clinton is waging war as the luckless Lyndon Johnson did.

He asked General Shelton bluntly if he had pointed out to Mr Clinton and his advisers that air campaigns alone had never ended a war.

The general confirmed that he did point out that an air campaign might not lead to a diplomatic and political settlement.

Mr McCain, a strong advocate of ground forces, insisted that there was a considerable difference between fighting a war to win and fighting one not to lose.

GENT SHKULLAKU / REUTERS



US Air Force troops about to board a helicopter at Tirana to fly aid to refugees in northern Albania yesterday

French 'spy' told Serbs of targets

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A FRENCH officer accused of spying for Serbia yesterday explained for the first time how he came to hand details of Nato airstrike plans to a Yugoslav diplomat.

Commandant Pierre-Henri Bunel said he revealed a classified document in October in an attempt to show the Serbs "the scope of the destruction that was envisaged".

In a letter to the newspaper *Libération*, he said: "Nervously worn out by years of accumulated stress, I took an initiative for which I had no mandate. I was obsessed by the thought of a human disaster. I wanted to persuade the Serbs that the threat of airstrikes was real."

US intelligence told France last year that Commandant Bunel had disclosed details of Nato's targets to Jovan Milanovic, head of the Yugoslav diplomatic mission at the European Union. Commandant Bunel is under formal investigation for "giving intelligence to a foreign power".

In his letter to *Libération*, he said the Serbs explicitly warned of a mass deportation of Kosovans if the Nato airstrikes went ahead.

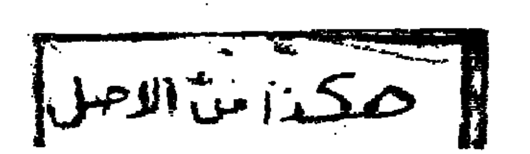
Terror faxes sent to church

Washington: Military bases and the police in America are on alert for terrorist attacks after a letter was faxed to Serbian churches calling for members of the US Armed Forces to be killed (Ian Brodie writes).

The FBI issued the warning after Serbian Orthodox churches in Chicago, Sacramento, Milwaukee and Indianapolis received the letter, written in Serbo-Croat on March 20 — four days before the bombing began. It urges Serbian Americans to resort to terror in response to Nato airstrikes against Yugoslavia by killing soldiers on the streets, in parks, in shopping malls, in cinemas, in their homes or wherever they may be found.

There are up to three million Americans of Yugoslav heritage. Many have unquestionably felt torn by events in the Balkans, seeing their Serb brethren demonised by US politicians and the media.

But many, too, have no affection for President Milosevic, blaming him for the violent break-up of the Yugoslav Federation.



BALKANS WAR: WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

How do we get out of this mess?

Three weeks into the offensive, opinion is divided on how to end the conflict

'We should declare victory and get out as soon as we can'



DECLARE VICTORY

David Hackworth

Author, retired army colonel and America's most decorated ex-serviceman

WE should do what we didn't do in South Vietnam, declare victory and get out as soon as we can.

And while we are getting out we should also get out of Nato because the Europeans are all big boys now. They've been feeding on the American teat since the Second World War and it's about time they took care of themselves.

The purpose of Nato was to defend Europe from the Soviet Union, which has expired, leaving Nato with no purpose whatsoever.

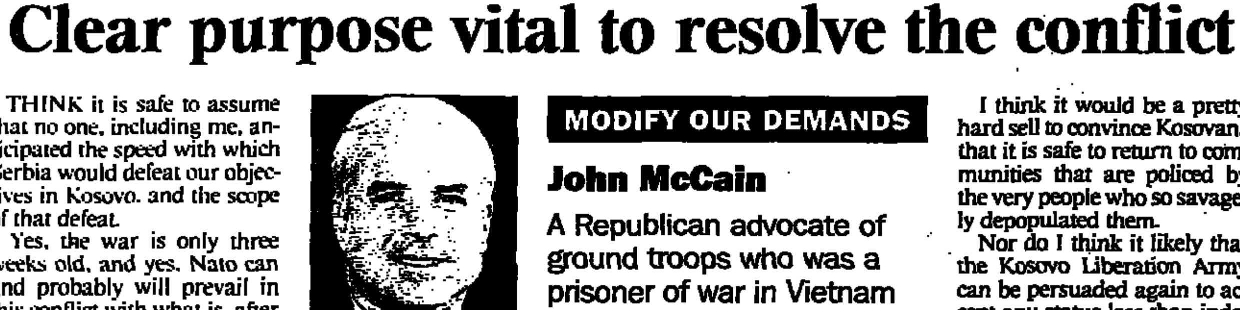
It seems to me Clinton and Blair have caused themselves a neat little war that has brought the Cold War back. Blair and Europe should handle it by themselves.

I think the strategic objective in Kosovo should be to cut it in half and let Milosevic take the northern half with all the sacred lands — and the very rich mineral deposits — and allow the southern half to become a separate republic or fold it into Albania.

I think you will see Milosevic's columns slowly pull back to be positioned to that end.

I think it will also be the beginning of the end for Milosevic. Many Serbs hold him in the same disregard that millions of Americans feel for Clinton.

Clear purpose vital to resolve the conflict



MODIFY OUR DEMANDS

John McCain

A Republican advocate of ground troops who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam

I THINK it is safe to assume that no one, including me, anticipated the speed with which Serbia would defeat our objectives in Kosovo, and the scope of that defeat.

Yes, the war is only three weeks old, and yes, Nato can and probably will prevail in this conflict with what is, after all, a considerably inferior adversary. But victory will not be hastened by pretending that things have just gone swimmingly.

Worse, unless we look critically at both why we went to war in the Balkans, and why we have failed to achieve our ends, I fear the Administration and our Nato allies might commit the gravest mistake we could make: changing our ends to make our means more effective rather than employing more effective means to achieve our ends.

Surely, some of our terms for peace will have to be modified to correspond to new realities on the ground and to achieve our ultimate ends, which are security for the Kosovans and peace and stability in the Balkans.

Genuine autonomy for Kosovo that includes the presence in Kosovo of thousands of Serb military and security personnel is hard to conceive as practical any more.

I think it would be a pretty hard sell to convince Kosovans that it is safe to return to communities that are policed by the very people who so savagely depopulated them.

Nor do I think it likely that the Kosovo Liberation Army can be persuaded again to accept any status less than independence.

We might need to expand our demands to accomplish our essential purpose. But I worry the Clinton Administration might do the opposite.

I worry that our purpose will be reduced because the Administration is unwilling to change the means we use to accomplish it.

GULF WAR LESSON

Don Rice

Former secretary of the United States Air Force under the Bush Administration

I THINK we made two serious mistakes at the beginning. One was to go in gradually and to over-constrain the air campaign. The second was to rule out ground forces up front.

We seem to be correcting the first mistake as General Clark requests more air resources to broaden and strengthen the air campaign. We might be inching towards correcting the second.

If both mistakes had not been made, I think we would be further along than we are. The tough part of the mission is to use air power to root out Milosevic's ground forces, his tanks, armoured personnel carriers and his artillery. That is going to take a degree of dedication to the mission that I hope Nato is ready for.

Confronting him with the threat of opposing ground forces would make it easier to get at his own ground forces from the air. If we learnt anything from the Gulf War, it is not that air power can find everything hidden on the ground, but rather that no opposing tank army will ever again be able to manoeuvre in the face of modern air power.

□ Photograph: Peter Nicholls

THREE-PRONGED ATTACK

George Joulwan

Nato Supreme Commander Europe 1993-97, architect of Nato's Bosnia operations

MILOSEVIC has the initiative. He is achieving his strategic war aims by reducing the effectiveness of the KLA, driving out refugees, destabilising Montenegro and causing problems in Macedonia.

He is operating within his decision cycle of what he has to get done. What we have been unable to do so far is to seize the initiative. Nato needs more than one option to confront Milosevic.

We in the military talk about combined arms — air, land and sea power. That is the best synergy we can get. We have more air power than we could hope for, but combined with ground troops we would have synergy.

While doing option A, the air war, you have to plan for options B, C and D. The planning alone may be enough to divert Serb forces from the killing zones of Kosovo.

I have four rules for success: clarity of mission, unity of command, robust rules of engagement and timely political decisions (this last one always comes late).

UN SETTLEMENT

Tony Benn

MP for Chesterfield and the leading Labour critic of Britain's policy on Kosovo

THE choice is very straightforward. Either you launch a huge invasion which would lead to a strong and bitter struggle, to which I would obviously be opposed. Or you can take some opportunity to bring it back to the United Nations and sort it out that way.

If you are going to get in a monitoring force, it cannot be Nato. The Russians fear Nato is moving East. You will have to have non-Nato forces, and only the UN can do that.

If you don't do that, if you try to go on as we are at the moment, the Nato alliance will crack. If you send troops in, it will crack even quicker.



POLITICAL SOLUTION

Tom King

Former Conservative Defence Minister and MP for Bridgwater

IT IS critical for us to get the political wires going again with Russia and Kofi Annan [United Nations Secretary-General] as well as getting the support of the neighbouring nations. We must keep up the military pressure while we pursue these two routes.

I don't see the prospect of a full-scale invasion, but there may have to be a halfway house. We could set up reserve areas, providing it is made clear it is not an invasion but a measure to provide security for the Kosovans. It need not be just Nato who look over this. It could be Nato countries and Russia.

I am against partition, and wouldn't welcome it, but you might have to live with it in the early stages.

ROUND-THE-CLOCK BOMBING

Thomas McInerney

A retired Lieutenant-General who rose to third in command of the US Air Force and a highly decorated Vietnam War pilot

WE should ratchet up to a thousand sorties a day, 24 hours a day, focusing on leadership command and control targets in and around Belgrade. That's all you have to do. I promise you. Then it will be over, history.

We did it in ten days in North Vietnam with the Christmas bombing campaign in December 1972. They realised we were serious and signed the peace treaty.

We have not yet hit one significant target in Belgrade. We have to get Milosevic to the point where he cannot talk to anyone. He lifts the phone and there is no one on the other end. Let him use carrier pigeons.

RUSSIAN ROLE

Anatol Lieven

Russia expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies

THE West now needs Moscow's help more than at any time since the Gulf War.

Only Russia, through its standing in Belgrade, can bring about any kind of agreed settlement. The fact that Russian relations with the European Union remain good leaves open a line of communication.

Agreement over Kosovo will have to involve Nato peacekeeping forces on the ground under de facto Nato command. This force would also have to include non-Nato troops, including Russians, and be under a non-Nato mandate.

It is a great pity that Nato planners did not think harder about these options, and about the necessity of trying to draw Russia into implementation plans before the bombing started.

The West, hearing Russian anti-Nato rhetoric, may conclude that the relationship has broken down irrevocably and that Russia is too hostile to be allowed any role in talks. This would be an error.



PROTECTORATE

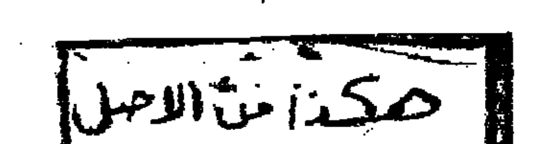
Martin Bell

MP for Tatton and former war correspondent

I DON'T see any exit strategy. I don't think we have any option having gone this far. We would have not only abandoned the people of Kosovo but also have destabilised Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania to no purpose. We would also have severely damaged the credibility of Nato.

There are two completion strategies. One is to increase the pressure such that Milosevic would compromise under pressure from his friends in Russia. But that would involve introducing ground troops.

The second is he does not compromise, we go for ground troops, and impose some kind of protectorate.



Honesty is best riposte to lies from Belgrade

By Michael Evans, defence editor

THE best weapon for propagandists in a war is the truth. Until now most propaganda efforts by the Yugoslav authorities have been ineffectual because Nato has been able to counter with facts the regular claims of allied planes being shot down or civilians being slaughtered.

However, the two admissions by Nato this week — that it attacked a passenger train in error while targeting a bridge near Leskovac, and now that allied aircraft struck part of a refugee convoy in Kosovo — have presented Belgrade with an opportunity to extract the maximum advantage.

While Nato is on the defensive, the Yugoslav authorities, who until now have shown nothing but murderous contempt for their Albanian citizens, can weep crocodile tears, as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, put it yesterday, and escort Western journalists on a guided tour of the scene.

Propaganda backed by horrific images of civilians lying dead on a country road can be a powerful tool in the hands of a dictator who has had years of experience in manipulating his own press and broadcasting organisations.

Accused by Nato of being in political command of Yugoslav troops, special police and paramilitaries who are committing crimes against humanity in Kosovo, President Milosevic will take every opportunity to throw back at Nato the same accusation.

So far, Nato has adopted a prudent policy, countering Belgrade's propaganda with its own brand of propagandist war — including demonising Mr Milosevic — while owning up to errors when they occur, although relating the apologies and regrets to a wider context in which the Yugoslav leader is blamed overall for every death and injury.

The longer the air campaign continues, however, the greater the risk for Nato that more terrible errors will happen, thus providing Mr Milosevic with more deadly propaganda material. The Yugoslav leader will know that the more civilian deaths Nato causes, albeit in error, the more pressure there may be from public opinion to call off the bombers.

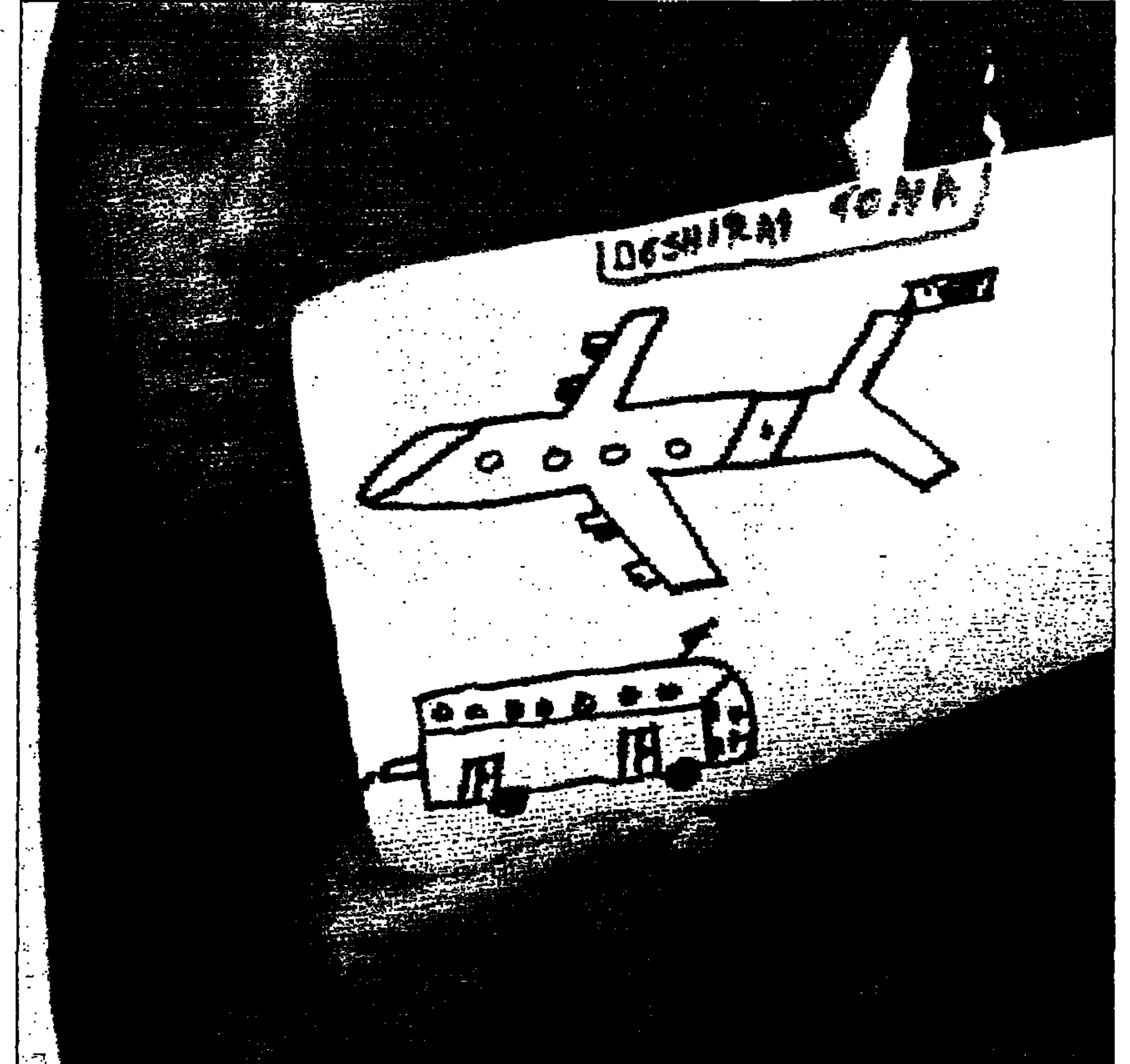
On the positive side for Nato governments, public opinion has been largely supportive of the air campaign and will not be fooled by Belgrade's accusation that allied aircraft are deliberately targeting civilians. Refugees who witnessed the convoy attack said that they had assumed the aircraft involved were Serb because they knew Nato would not target civilians, underlining the point that in the propaganda war, the alliance has been winning all the prizes. Nor will the public, in making up its mind about the war, be allowed to forget that it is the "ethnic cleansing", killing and rapes by Mr Milosevic's forces that have led to allied aircraft flying bombing missions over Yugoslavia.

> 'Images of civilians lying dead can be a powerful tool'

Nevertheless, Mr Milosevic will be pleased with the day's work. For 24 hours, while the Pentagon was putting out confusing signals, casting doubt on Nato's involvement in the attack, Belgrade exploited the alliance's weakest spot. Every day Nato officials have emphasised that the pilots' rules of engagement specifically prohibit releasing bombs unless the target has been identified.

This has been called Nato's "humanitarian war". When such as war causes civilian deaths, Mr Milosevic's propagandists have a field day.

ENRIC MARTI / AP



A Kosovo boy now in a refugee camp in Tirana, Albania, with his drawing of a Nato plane entitled "My Desire"

News censorship from front line is better than silence

By Graham Paterson

RADIO 5 asked John Simpson, the BBC's world affairs editor, yesterday: what did he feel about being accused of being a mouthpiece for President Milosovic's propaganda machine? "It just goes with the turf," he replied nonchalantly from Belgrade.

The few British correspondents still able to report from Belgrade know that both sides in this war see them as the enemy. After several desperately bad days for the Nato war effort — first the bombing of a train and then Wednesday's accidental but horrific attack on Kosovan refugees — Downing Street has turned on the messengers.

Simpson and his fellow reporters, it was whispered, were simply playing a part in the Serbian propaganda battle against Nato. Tightly controlled reports, these sources say, take Serbian claims at face value, highlight civilian casualties and play down Nato's successes.

The "health warnings", they add, that accompany such reports, mentioning Serb press minders and the fact that they are monitored by the authorities, are insufficient.

In a war where public support is essential if the campaign is to be pursued for weeks and months, Western governments hate the drip, drip of reports of setbacks and military disasters.

But they are wrong. The reporting from Belgrade has provided an extra dimension to our understanding of this war. The moving reports by, among others, Tom Walker, the Belgrade correspondent of *The Times*, of the murder and funeral of the editor, Slavko Curuvija, revealed the extent of opposition to Mr Milosovic's dictatorship. And if Nato makes the occasional error, is it not that very freedom to know such things that Nato is ultimately fighting for? Only dictatorial governments can "ethnically cleanse" whole provinces.

In Baghdad in 1991, when the then Tory Government made the same charges against Simpson and his colleagues of aiding the enemy, the public were not fooled for a moment. There is no reason either why they should be fooled this time.

Walker reported last week the words of his press minder: "If I was running things, we would have 12 correspondents left and they would mostly be Chinese. The rest are enemies." No kowtowing there. The more Simpson and his ilk annoy the politicians, the better they are doing their jobs.



School protests at Shakespeare rudely in love

Bawdy Titania was last straw as teacher led class walkout, writes Helen Johnstone

THE Royal Shakespeare Company has sent a warning letter to schools after a teacher led his class out of a matinée of its latest production because it was too sexually explicit.

The 34 pupils between nine and eleven walked out of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Stratford-upon-Avon less than an hour into the three-hour performance when an actress simulated sex with an actor dressed as a donkey.

Stephen McGaw, 43, had taken the mixed class from Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic School, Coventry. They had saved up for the £15-a-head performance after studying Shakespeare as part of the Government's Literacy Hour initiative.

Mr McGaw said yesterday: "I complained to an usherette at first and she told us she was surprised to see us there in the first place, because an internal memo had informed staff of the sexually explicit nature of the play.

"But, when I spoke to the manageress, she told me she hadn't even seen the play. It was ridiculous. I was so angry I threw the programme into the bin in disgust."

In a letter to 165 schools, the RSC is now acknowledging that the director, Michael Boyd, had emphasised the more bawdy aspects of the play and it was not suitable for primary school children.

After being marched out of the theatre, the group had to spend the day walking around Stratford to wait for the school coach. The school is seeking £610 compensation for the cost of the trip, at the end of last month, and expenses incurred keeping the children amused.

Mr McGaw said the trip was to have been a treat for the children, who had performed their own production of the play in school assembly. But the production had driven a horse and carriage through the school's religious education and sex education policies. He said: "The actors seemed to be taking every opportunity that was presented within the script to take the play along a sexual route"

Mr McGaw said that, after the walkout, he spent 30 minutes in the theatre foyer with his class discussing the play. He said: "The children were all embarrassed and said they thought it was unsuitable for kids their age. They were really good about it and few of them must have gone home and told their parents because we had few complaints from them the next day."

Mr McGaw said the last straw was a scene in which Titania, Queen of the Fairies, played by Josette Simon, was shown simulating sex with a man dressed as a donkey.

An RSC spokeswoman said the play had been running from the middle of March and would continue until the beginning of October. As a result of a letter of complaint from Mr McGaw, letters had been sent to all the primary schools on their database. She said: "The letters warn of the sexually explicit material in the play and also offers refunds for any pre-booked parties who now may wish to cancel."

She added: "We have had 26 school parties, albeit secondary schools, watch the play already and have only received a complaint from the one primary school that arrived."

A spokeswoman for the theatre said Mr Boyd was unavailable for comment, but added that the production was not sexually explicit, but was sensual and erotic.

DAN CHUNG



The scene at Anfield during the minute's silence held in Liverpool yesterday, ten years after the Hillsborough disaster

Ten years on, Liverpool mourns

Russell Jenkins on the service to remember Hillsborough victims

AT 3.06pm yesterday afternoon, the city of Liverpool stopped in silent tribute to the 96 men, women and children who lost their lives exactly ten years before in the Hillsborough stadium disaster.

Inside Anfield, 12,000 heard Ray Lewis, the referee on that terrible day, blow his whistle to begin a minute's silence. Clergymen had read out the names of those who were crushed to death on the terraces in Sheffield, on April 15, 1989, at the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

The grief on Merseyside has turned to anger, resentment and a brooding sense that justice has not been done. The raw emotion was palpable at the tenth anniverary service. Outside the ground, beside the eternal flame of the Hillsborough memorial, fans laid floral tributes and scarves. Among them stood today's players and those who had been a part of the team a decade ago.

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, laid a wreath. The Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev James Jones, spoke of the courage of those for whom "the act of remembrance will bring even more trauma". He said: "This service is important because we can let our feelings come to the surface. There is comfort in just being together."

A candle was lit for each of the dead as the clergy read out their names while The Love and Joy Gospel Choir sang *Abide with Me*. Trevor Hicks, who lost two daughters in the tragedy and is chairman of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, told the crowd that the campaign for justice went on. The families still hope to bring a private prosecution against two senior police officers. Fans sang the Kop anthem *You'll Never Walk Alone* as they held their scarves aloft.

Friend's 'harmless' gun kills pensioner

By Simon de Bruxelles

A PENSIONER told yesterday how he shot and killed a lifelong friend while showing off an antique pistol. George Gleed, 68, was convinced that the bullets in the Belgian revolver were inert, but as he demonstrated the gun to John Smith, 66, there was a bang.

His friend was hit from a range of 3ft and died instantly. Police at Stroud, Gloucestershire, have questioned Mr Gleed and taken away the revolver, made in the 1860s.

Mr Gleed, a former carpenter, and Mr Smith, a retired council officer, had had a common interest in shooting and gundog training in earlier days. Mr Gleed said: "A few weeks ago I bought this deactivated revolver from an authorised dealer. A few days later he gave me six rounds of the old pinfire bullets. I was under the impression the bullets were inactive. It is devastating to think my friend died this way." The two friends had fired the gun safely before it went off.

A Gloucestershire police spokeswoman said that a file was being prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service. A man aged 55 has been arrested on suspicion of supplying a firearm and ammunition without a licence.

NHS staff get no millennium bonus

By Mark Henderson

DOCTORS and nurses will be expected to work on New Year's Eve as normal this year without compensation payments for missing the millennium festivities under national guidelines announced by the Government yesterday.

NHS staff should honour their contracts and work for standard overtime pay, Hugh Taylor, the NHS director of human resources, said in a circular to health service managers.

No money will be made available for bonuses from central funds and health authorities and trusts are strongly discouraged from offering staff any cash incentive.

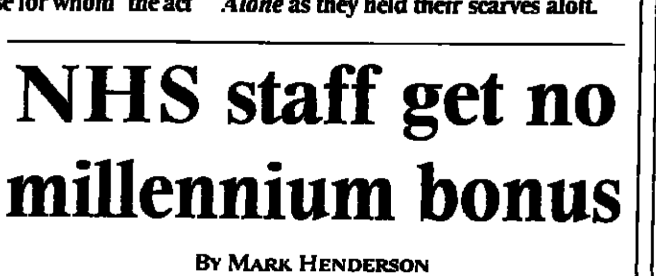
Health unions had asked for up to £500 extra for staff asked to work. Bob Abberley, of Unison, said: "We condemn this arrangement, which is the worst of all worlds. NHS staff are no different from other staff — they want to enjoy the millennium with their families or be recompensed - and this is unfair."

The Government cannot stop individual trusts and authorities from offering bonuses and Mr Abberley said that the absence of a national bonus scheme would lead to a free-for-all and poaching of staff.

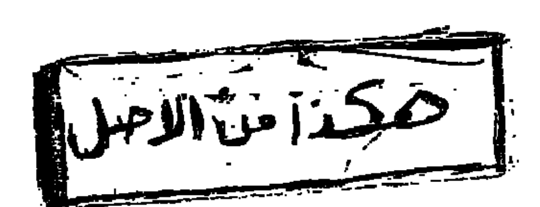
In the private sector, some employees, especially computer programmers, are being offered £10,000 to remain on call or on duty for New Year's Eve. Adecco, an employment consultancy, said that the AA is offering workers a £750 bonus and Yorkshire Water a bonus of £500.

BBC workers will get £500 bonuses, and London Underground staff are seeking £1,000. Police and firefighters have not yet been told if they will get more than standard double-time bank holiday pay.

Letters, page 23







Death skipper 'looked after No 1'

Captain of a hospitality yacht on which two died had the only lifejacket, writes Paul Wilkinson

THE skipper of an ocean-racing yacht that capsized in rough seas, drowning two passengers, was the only one on board wearing a lifejacket and safety harness, a court was told yesterday.

"The captain looked after No 1," Paul Batty, QC, told Sheffield Crown Court. Colin Jessey was a "supremely arrogant man" who believed his yacht could face anything that the sea could offer.

"The skipper was relatively safe; none of the passengers had this luxury. There was only one lifejacket aboard the yacht at the time of the rescue — he was wearing it.

"There were nine passengers and there were buoyancy aids aboard, but, even if Colin Jessey advised them to wear them, which he didn't, there were not enough to go round.



Colin Jessey: he denies manslaughter charge

There were enough harnesses, but the passengers were not instructed how to wear them."

Mr Jessey, 51, from Shoreham, West Sussex, has denied manslaughter and dangerous conduct arising from the incident last April. He had been paid £1,500 to take a party of businessmen for two days' sailing from the Tyne out into the North Sea. His yacht, the *Lone Signature*, encountered mountainous seas as it reached the mouth of the river and was knocked flat.

Three people were swept overboard. One was recovered alive, although seriously injured, but Alan Barwick, 52, and Peter Curry, 45, drowned. In an extensive air and sea rescue effort, the Tynemouth lifeboat almost capsized.

Mr Batty told the court: "Peter Curry was heard to shout from the water, 'Save us, save us,' before being swept to his death. Alan Barwick, who was only 10ft away from the boat, was swept away and was soon to be seen floating face down.

"What the prosecution are putting to the jury is: did Colin Jessey take reasonable care of those aboard the yacht that day? He showed a cavalier approach to the safety of his passengers. We suggest his conduct was not merely carelessness but was gross negligence, which is criminal and therefore manslaughter.

"He had been paid for two days' sailing. He called them hospitality days ... but they turned into days of nightmare. The vessel was swamped by a large wave, three men were lost overboard wearing no lifejackets, no buoyancy aids or harness fixing them to the yacht. Had they been wearing them, they would not have been swept overboard and no lives would have been lost."

Mr Batty said that Mr Jessey had not obtained an up-to-date weather forecast or contacted the coastguard. "All he had done was to watch the regional weather forecast the previous day. There was a lot of extreme weather coming into the River Tyne; there was more water coming down to meet the sea. What happens when the weight of the sea meets the weight of the water coming the other way is you get treacherous conditions at the mouth. That is what was happening on this day."

Conditions were so bad that other vessels, including a fisheries protection boat, had turned back. The jury watched a 15-minute video taken by a tourist, which showed the *Signature* and a large car ferry that was rocking so much its propeller cleared the water.

Mr Batty described Mr Jessey as a man who looked the part of a yacht skipper. "However, the circumstances suggest that, even before the yacht left the yacht basin, he was seriously at fault regarding the safety of his vessel."

Mr Jessey had no crew and failed to demonstrate how to fit buoyancy aids or how a safety harness was worn. He merely told the passengers where the safety harnesses were, while the buoyancy aids were in short supply, Mr Batty said.

All this suggested that, when he left the marina, "the safety of his passengers was low on his agenda. Did he say to his passengers, 'We are not going out there,' or did he say, 'It is going to be a bit lumpy out there, boys, put on your safety harnesses'? No, he said, 'Put on your wet gear,' that is all." The trial continues.

The yacht moments before it capsized in huge waves in the mouth of the Tyne last April. Three men were swept overboard, of whom two drowned



Man is held over 'beauty in bath' murder

By Russell Jenkins

POLICE were questioning a man yesterday about the unsolved murder of Cynthia Bolshaw 15 years ago, which became known as the "beauty in the bath" case.

CID officers arrested the 49-year-old suspect at his home in Birkenhead, Wirral, a month after police reopened their files on the case. The man was being held at a police station on Merseyside for further questioning.

The beautician was found naked, except for a necklace and earrings, face down in the bath at her secluded bungalow in Heswall, on the Wirral, in October 1983. She had been strangled, apparently after entertaining a lover.

Mrs Bolshaw, 50, worked as a cosmetics consultant at Browns, a Chester department store. Merseyside Police drew a blank despite an inquiry that concentrated on hundreds of male friends documented in 14 diaries.

Last month the force reopened the files, aiming to exploit new techniques, notably DNA profiling. Police began conducting voluntary saliva swabs on more than 200 men with results checked against a genetic profile garnered from forensic evidence that had long lain untouched.

Police said a man had been arrested at 7.20am yesterday.

Outrage greets suspect's radio appearance

By Michael Harvey

ONE of the five men accused of killing Stephen Lawrence yesterday swore "on his mother's life" that he was innocent of the crime.

To the outrage of the Lawrence family, Gary Dobson appeared on a national radio phone-in and was questioned by presenters and the public live for two hours.

The 23-year-old man, who was acquitted of the murder after the family's private prosecution collapsed, was challenged directly about the murder. He said: "On my mother's life, I am not guilty of this crime. On my mother's life, I don't know who was responsible. If I did know, I would certainly not have let my family go through all of this for the past six years.

"I have had to look into my mother's eyes as she is crying, asking me, 'Why are they doing this to you?'."

Dobson gave a grudging half-apology to the Lawrence family and added he respected them for the way they had acted over the past six years.

The family yesterday condemned his appearance on Talk Radio and anti-racist demonstrators protested outside the radio station's offices in Oxford Street, London.

☐ Last night solicitors for the Lawrence family were continuing negotiations with Metropolitan Police lawyers over an offer of up to £100,000 damages for the bungled investigation into Stephen's death. Sources said the final figure could be as high as £250,000.

Boy, 13, guilty of shooting girl in eye

A BOY aged 13 was yesterday convicted of blinding a papergirl in one eye after firing an air pistol at her. A jury at Exeter Crown Court found the teenager guilty of causing grievous bodily harm in an incident on a Paignton housing estate in May last year.

The defendant cannot be identified for legal reasons but Judge Jeremy Griggs lifted a similar order in respect of the victim after her mother asked that she be allowed to be identified.

Rachel Courtney, 16, told the court that the boy, then aged 12, had spat, thrown stones at her and called her names before asking "Do you know what real pain feels like?" and shooting her. The boy said the injury had been an accident.

The case was adjourned for pre-sentence reports.

Planet discovery suggests we are not alone

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ASTRONOMERS have found the first solar system around a star other than the Sun.

Three giant planets are in orbit around the star Upsilon Andromedae, which is 44 light years away, two groups of American astronomers have independently concluded.

The announcement suggests that solar systems like ours are commonplace. The astronomers, from San Francisco State University and the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, reported the results of their investigations at a joint press conference yesterday at the university. Debra Fischer said: "It implies that planets can form more easily than we ever imagined, and that our Milky Way is teeming with planetary systems."

Alan Penny, a British planetary expert from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Didcot, Oxfordshire, described the finding as a major discovery and said it increased the chances of finding Earth-like planets that might harboured life.

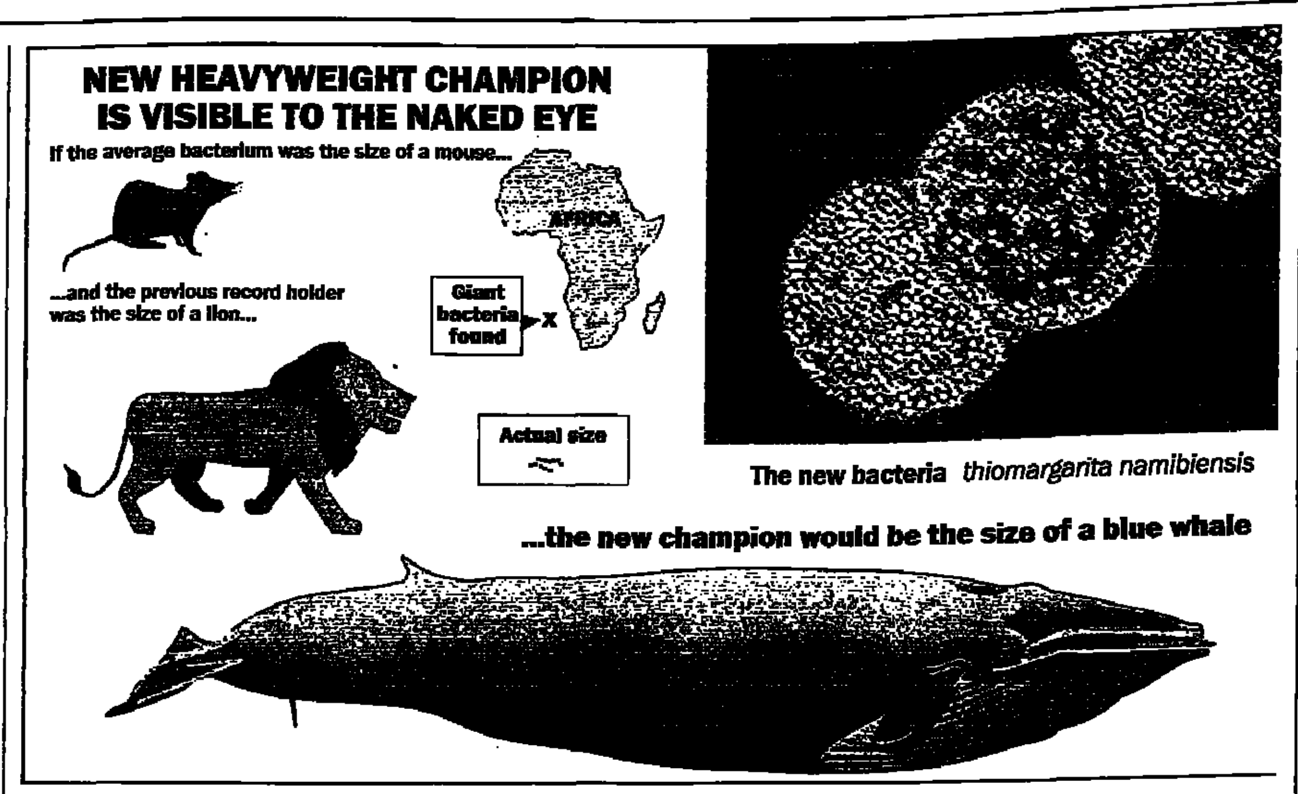
One of the planets orbiting Upsilon Andromedae was already known. It is three quarters of the mass of Jupiter and orbits the star at a distance so small that a complete orbit takes less than five days.

The two new planets are even more massive. The middle one is twice the mass of Jupiter and orbits the star in 242 days, while the outer one is four times the mass of Jupiter and orbits once every four years or so.

Robert Noyes, Professor of Astronomy at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre, said: "This will shake up the theory of planet formation. A nagging question was whether the massive bodies orbiting in apparent isolation around stars really are planets, but, now that we see three around the same star, it is hard to imagine anything else."

A paper announcing the findings has been submitted to the *Astrophysical Journal*.

☐ A mile-wide asteroid could collide with Earth in 2039. The chances are less than one in a billion, but the asteroid, 1999 AN10, will require careful watching, say astronomers from Italy, who have worked out its movements. This is because its orbit crosses that of Earth twice a year; perturbations caused by close approaches to the Earth could alter its path sufficiently to make a collision more likely.



Bacterial leviathan found on seabed

A GIANT bacterium the size of a full stop has been found living in sediment on the ocean floor off the coast of Namibia (Nigel Hawkes writes).

If the average bacterium was the size of a newborn mouse, the new one would be the size of a blue whale. On the same scale, the previously largest known would be about as big as a lion.

The new bacteria, *Thiomargarita namibiensis*, grow loosely attached to each other, like a string of pearls. They live on sulphides, which they oxidise with the help of nitrates found in seawater.

The finder of the new species, Heide Schulz, of the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, said in *Science*: "I have been working with exotic bacteria for a while now and I knew immediately they were sulphur bacteria . . . my colleagues at first did not believe me because they were so big."

The bacteria can store large amounts of nitrates so that, when the supply in the green ooze in which they live is depleted, they can wait three months for a storm to stir up and refresh the sediment.

Bacteria, single-celled organisms, are among the simplest of life forms. They inhabit every possible niche on Earth.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Green light for airport smugglers

Travellers are evading import duty because of staff cuts at airports, says the National Audit Office. Bad design lets people see there are no customs staff at some green "nothing to declare" channels, and some red channels have only "honesty phones". Diamonds, computer chips and cigarettes are the main items on which duty is dodged. Since 1990, annual revenue from personal goods has fallen £16 million to £7 million. Cigarette smuggling at provincial airports is thought to cost £50 million.

Asda goes to sea

Asda has launched its own mini-fleet of trawlers. Four vessels from Grimsby will supply the supermarkets with cod in a deal that guarantees the trawler owners and crews £1.5 million. The boats, which will fly the Asda flag, hope to land 200 tonnes each a year.

Yacht drug claim

Roger Russell, 57, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody by magistrates in Ipswich, Suffolk, accused of involvement in drug smuggling after an investigation into an abandoned yacht, found drifting off Aldeburgh with 10 kilograms of cannabis on board.

MTV hit by fire

The music station MTV was off the air for several hours when fire broke out at its studios in Camden, North London. Part of the first floor and most of the roof was destroyed. No one was injured and the cause of the fire is being investigated.

Mum's the rival

A Labour councillor is guaranteed a close rival when she defends her seat in Wakefield — her son. Tony Wright, 44, will stand as an independent Labour candidate at next month's local elections. His mother, Mollie, 65, said: "He's got a fight on his hands."

Losing sparkle

Millennium parties could lose their glitter because of a shortage of sequins, according to Europe's only maker. Brody International, of London, said it was working seven days a week but was struggling to cope with demand from dressmakers.

Bedtime cocoa

The Vegan Society has approved a range of condoms made without animal ingredients or derivatives. Milk protein is used in the production of latex for most condoms, but the German firm Condomi uses cocoa powder instead for the new range.

Why the wait for hip surgery, study asks

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

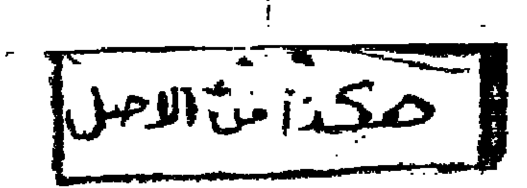
THERE is no fundamental reason why any patient should have a long wait for hip replacement surgery, according to a study of more than 28,000 patients at 40 GP practices.

The study, published today in *The Lancet*, found that in the 35 to 85 age group about 15 people in every thousand need the operation, and each year another two people per thousand develop hip disease.

This suggests there is an overall requirement in England of 46,600 hip operations, say the authors from the Department of Social Medicine at Bristol University. Given that there are 43,500 hip operations a year, this means that only an extra 3,100 are needed to meet demand.

The report says the figures show that "the satisfaction of demand for total hip replacement . . . is a realistic objective . . . and there is no fundamental reason why total hip replacement surgery should be denied to those who would benefit from it".

The authors said they carried out the study because hip replacement has one of the longest waiting lists and failure to reduce the wait was a major incentive for NHS reforms.



Keep-fit fan died after fat surgery

Liposuction on buttocks proved fatal, reports **Claudia Joseph**

A BRITISH man has died after a three-hour liposuction operation on his buttocks in a Californian clinic.

Paul Freeman, a 25-year-old bodybuilder and fitness instructor, died from blood poisoning after the operation to suck fat through a tube inserted under the skin and attached to a vacuum pump.

At an inquest in Birmingham yesterday, his mother, Pauline, called for tougher restrictions to be placed on cosmetic surgery.

Mr Freeman, who had lived in America for eight years, died in the San Francisco Memorial Hospital in November 1997, three days after the operation, which cost $3,000 (£1,875). He had not told his parents he was having it.

The inquest was told that Mr Freeman was sent home only two hours after surgery. Alfred Taylor, the coroner's officer, said that Mr Freeman suffered "intolerable pain" at home. A doctor was called out and he was given painkillers and treated for dehydration, before being readmitted to hospital with blood poisoning.

Richard Whittington, the Birmingham Coroner, who recorded a verdict of misadventure, said: "I would be horrified if he had been treated this way in Birmingham. This was quite extensive surgery, but he was sent home two hours later. This gave no opportunity to measure or monitor him post-operatively."


Freeman: he was 6ft 3in with a 52in chest

Speaking after the hearing, his mother said: "Liposuction is a dangerous procedure. People think it's just like having a tooth out, but it's not. It can take anybody's life. It's not something which should be taken lightly."

Mrs Freeman, who is disabled, did not know her son had been operated on until she received a telephone call from one of his friends after he had gone back to hospital.

The parents flew to California, but arrived at the hospital 30 minutes after Mr Freeman had died. He had been due to take his final fitness instruction examinations the following week.

Mrs Freeman, who also has two daughters, said: "Paul didn't want us to know about the operation. Our younger daughter, Rachel, knew he was having minor surgery, but he knew we would try to talk him out of it."

She said that her son, who was 6ft 3in with a 52in chest, was "a very healthy young man. He was big, but it was solid muscle. He was in the gym three or four hours a day.

"We were broken-hearted. It has devastated our family. We never had the chance to say goodbye."

Mr and Mrs Freeman have decided not to take legal action against the doctor who performed the operation. They said it was proving difficult to find a lawyer to prove neglect and malpractice.

Critics have claimed that the cosmetic surgery industry in Britain is poorly monitored, with concern about standards of care. A government inquiry is under way into the regulation of the industry and a consultation paper will be published shortly. The Health Select Committee is also considering the issue.

Tourist hides from price of fame

By Christine Middap

A BRITISH backpacker in Australia, who handed in nearly £2,000 she found at a railway station, has been elevated to near-celebrity status for her act of honesty.

Sara Wood, 28, a secretary from Beckenham, southeast London, said she was embarrassed by the "huge fuss" her honesty had created in Perth. She had immediately handed in the bag containing A$5,000 because "it was the right thing to do".

Speaking from Perth, she said: "It's appalling that anyone thinks it was an amazing thing to do. I never had any doubts. The money is not mine; it was quite correct to hand it in to police. Anybody who wouldn't do that should be ashamed of themselves."

But Ms Wood said that, after all the media attention the incident had created, she now "just wanted to go away and hide. My life has been turned upside down."

Ms Wood, who has been travelling for 11 months, said she had always been an honest person. "I've had situations before where I've seen somebody drop a £20 note and I've chased them down the street to tell them. When you find this amount of money, you think it had to be a bit dodgy. If you kept it, you would always think, is it the profits of crime? Does it belong to a pensioner who needs it more than I do? Not handing it in is theft."

If the money is not claimed within a month, and if it is not the proceeds of crime, she will be allowed to keep it.

Engels-Hollandse Beleggings Trust N.V.
(English and Dutch Investment Trust)
Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Wednesday 28 April 1999 at 11.00 hours at the Le Meridien Apollo Hotel, Apollolaan 2, Amsterdam.

Shareholders wishing to attend the General Meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the Meeting with Staal Bankiers N.V., Lange Houtstraat 8, 2501 CH Den Haag or with Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3TG. A deposit certificate will be issued to such shareholders which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the Meeting.

Holders of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholders' Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the Meeting that they intend to attend the Meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3TG at least ten days before the Meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the Certificateholders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

The agenda for the meeting and the related documents, including the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1998 will be available from 15th April 1999 at the offices of the above named.

Board of Management
Engels-Hollandse Beleggings Trust N.V.
Wassenaar, 15 April 1999

Office address:
Rijksstraatweg 324 C
2240 CC Wassenaar


PHILIPPE DESMAZE

Clint Hallam is progressing well and can now hug his wife with both arms

Arm transplant man is playing piano again

Pioneer patient is expected to gain 70 per cent use of his hand, reports **Ian Murray**

CLINT HALLAM, who had the world's first forearm and hand transplant last September, is practising at the piano again and can hug his wife with both arms.

Even though Mr Hallam, 48, a New Zealander, dropped out of intensive physiotherapy three months after the operation, to travel, the medical team from St Mary's Hospital, London, writes in *The Lancet* today that he is well on the way to gaining good use of his transplanted arm. "He is progressively able to move his fingers and we cannot complain at all," said Nadey Hakim, of the transplant unit.

"I last saw him a month ago, when he was doing very well. He is in Australia now and seen daily by physiotherapists in Perth, who say he is improving all the time." He said Mr Hallam could expect to gain up to 70 per cent use of his transplanted hand over the next year.

"This operation has proved that this kind of transplant will work, but you have to be very selective about the sort of person who is offered it, because there are so many potential complications. Whoever has it will have to be on immunosuppressants for life, which means a patient becomes prone to succumb to many more infections. There is also an increased risk of skin cancer and of lymphoma.

"When you explain that to most people, they tend to say: 'Forget it. I'll just stick with my prosthesis.' Mr Hallam was an exception who was prepared to take the risk."

Mr Hallam's right forearm was cut off by a circular saw in 1984 while he was serving a prison term for fraud. An operation to re-implant his own arm failed and he had to have it removed again in 1989.

He refused to have an artificial limb, but made a study of units that were considering doing limb transplants, including the University of Lyons in France. He was accepted as a potential patient and, in preparation, told to exercise his right arm muscles by pretending he was practising the piano. He reported feeling "phantom limb" sensations of finger movements and cramping pain in the hand he did not have.

When a 41-year-old brain-dead donor was found in France, Mr Hallam was flown there — with an emergency passport because his own had been confiscated as he was being investigated for cheque-book fraud. The investigation has since been dropped.

The 12½-hour operation involved stitching together as many of the muscles, nerves and blood vessels as possible. Within 20 minutes of it finishing, blood was coursing around the transplanted hand and the skin colour was normal.

Salmond finds it hard to weather the storm

The SNP leader's trademark grin is in short supply after a turbulent week, report **Jason Allardyce** and **John Mair**

A FOUL mix of sleet and swirling wind blowing off the Moray Firth matches Alex Salmond's mood. On board his party's election battlebus after another bruising week of campaigning, the SNP leader immediately launches into a scathing attack on the Scottish press, describes Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, as "less than cheap", and snaps at a *Times* photographer for taking too many pictures.

The opinion polls are not good: independence does not after all look to be a prospect this side of the millennium and the *Spectator's* tactician of the year, who normally strikes fear into the heart of Cabinet ministers, is finding it hard to contain his annoyance.

Even his visit the day before to the Western Isles, normally a haven of rectitude, was overshadowed after newspaper reports on how the local SNP candidate, Alasdair Nicholson, had served a prison sentence in the 1970s for trying to burn down government offices in Edinburgh.

One year ago a poll put the SNP 12 points ahead of Labour while nationalist strategists privately maintained they were about ten points in front. Today, the nationalists are trailing by the same margin. En route to Elgin from Inverness airport, the *Mission Impossible* video on board the mobile nerve centre that is normally used to ferry rock stars around Britain suddenly seems oddly appropriate.

But Mr Salmond's trademark grin returns briefly as he insists that the SNP is winning the campaign. "We will win the election. I'm absolutely certain." The defining moment in the campaign for Holyrood so far has been Mr Salmond's intervention over the Nato bombings of Kosovo.

Last month the BBC gave him an unprecedented opportunity to speak to Scotland in response to Tony Blair's address on the airstrikes. It could have enhanced Mr Salmond's profile as a statesman, but the words "unpardonable folly", which he used to denounce the attacks, sparked a furious backlash and led Robin Cook to condemn him as "the toast of Belgrade". Mr Salmond, who has transformed his party into a credible opposition after years as a fringe movement, is unrepentant. "I knew the broadcast would be criticised. I mean, I am not a fool. I knew it was a controversial thing to say but the very last thing in my mind was a political calculation."

He noted that the MP Tam Dalyell had described Mr Cook's attacks on him as cheap. "The only thing I would say about that is if you are cheap you are worth something and I am not certain that the Foreign Secretary is in that category any more."

Mr Salmond, who has been steering his party into the territory formerly occupied by Labour in Scotland, insists that the plight of Kosovan refugees since the strikes began proves that he was right. "The evidence of the past three weeks is overwhelmingly that the Kosovo Albanians have not been helped by the bombing campaign ... and Milosevic, who is a gangster, has not been destabilised inside Serbia."

The SNP has suffered other damaging headlines over plans to increase income tax by a penny to finance an extra £690 million in public services and evidence that an independent Scotland could start life with a £2 billion budget deficit. Mr Salmond refuses to confirm until later in the campaign whether he believes an independent Scotland would have a deficit. He argues that Gordon Brown cannot even say with consistency how big the "black hole" in Scotland's finances would be. "Write that down. It's quite important, son," he barks.

Although even the most favourable poll for the nationalists yesterday showed the SNP seven points behind Labour, Mr Salmond is convinced that his party can win because demoralised Labour supporters will stay at home. Facing the vastly bigger resources of Labour's Millbank machine, the SNP leader knows he is in a David and Goliath style contest. "But David won that battle. It was Goliath who fell," Mr Salmond quips.

Letters, page 23

ASHLEY COOMBES



Mr Salmond's grin returned briefly as he insisted the SNP was winning

Hague attacks fuel duty rises



WILLIAM HAGUE sought to woo the rural vote in Scotland by condemning Labour's fuel duty rises as a "spiteful attack" on motorists, hauliers and remote communities. During a one-day tour, his first since the campaign began, the Conservative leader announced plans for a charge for foreign hauliers on Britain's roads. Under the BRIT disc scheme (British Road Infrastructure Tax), foreign lorry drivers would pay a daily charge, similar to one levied in other European countries. The money would be used to reduce excise duty on domestic lorries.

Soap actor's 'slip-up'

Labour was accused of breaking rules on political visits to schools during election campaigns after Ross Kemp, the *EastEnders* actor, went to a primary school in Glasgow. The Scottish Liberal Democrats are to complain after Mr Kemp, recently elected as rector of Glasgow University, visited St Stephen's School to support Labour's anti-drug policies.

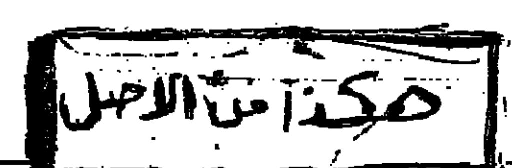
QUOTE of the day

Alex Salmond on the SNP's fight against unequal odds in the face of Labour's vastly bigger resources:

'But David won that battle. It was Goliath who fell'

today's AGENDA

Donald Dewar will hold a press conference with Craig Brown, the Scotland football coach, before heading for a photo shoot at Hampden Park. The SNP will highlight its "Penny for Scotland" spending plans, while the Conservatives will focus their fire on Liberal Democrat policies, who in turn will attack Labour's education plans.



I've been to Hull and back, Tony

Prescott licks his wounds after a bruising encounter deputising at Question Time, writes Roland Watson

JOHN PRESCOTT was said to be "hurt and depressed" yesterday at the calamitous Commons performance that sparked a flurry of speculation about his future.

Buried deep in his folder of briefing notes as he stood at the dispatch box were a few paragraphs about the Government's position on the so-called withholding tax. Had he dug them out he would have been spared a nightmarish half-hour standing in for Tony Blair at Prime Minister's *Questions*.

But he did not. His failure, and the disastrous encounter that ensued, left the Deputy Prime Minister badly bruised and angry with himself — and forced his friends to contemplate, gingerly, the cost.

"He obviously didn't know what it was," one minister said, referring to the withholding tax, a Brussels-inspired proposal which threatens 10,000 British jobs. "But then I wouldn't like to have to explain it either."

The Tories yesterday sought to twist the knife in one of their favourite whipping boys. Sir George Young, Shadow Leader of the Commons, suggested that in future Mr Blair should take his deputy abroad to "avoid inflicting on the House the indignity it suffered yesterday".

Such a tactic, however, merely increased the waves of sympathy from Labour MPs. "Just because he sometimes gets his words wrong, the snooty middle-class element think they can laugh at him like hyenas. That is simply nasty class politics," a friend said.

One source in Mr Prescott's Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions even suggested the minister had not heard Sir Michael Spicer's question, hence his rambling answer on the poll tax and financial support for local government. "There was a lot of noise in the chamber at the time," they offered.

While a public school educated, legally trained, performer such as Mr Blair would have dealt with the question even if he had known as little of the subject as Mr Prescott appeared to, his former seafaring deputy who failed the 11-plus does not have the polish to mask his rough edges with airs and graces. "John is a man whose virtues and shortcomings are all too visible," one MP said.

Mr Prescott has never stood in before for Mr Blair at such short notice. It was only on Tuesday that Mr Blair decided he had to leave for Brussels earlier than planned. Mr Prescott's briefing for the weekly confrontation, whose bearpit qualities horrify visiting premiers, began on Tuesday afternoon.

In No 10, he began to go through possible angles of questioning with a team of half a dozen civil servants. He regrouped with the same officials for a couple of hours on Wednesday morning. In the meantime, loose leaf sheets of paper poured in from Whitehall departments, the Downing Street policy and political units with possible lines to take to add to his bulging file.

"No one would be able to read through that whole file, even if they wanted to," one said.

As the debacle unfolded, the perils of the new 30-minute slot (it had been two 15-minute sessions) became all too apparent. Once Mr Prescott started slipping, it was an agonisingly long time to the end.

There was one saving grace. No Tory had the wit or presence of mind to hit him with a follow-up question about the withholding tax. That could have proved terminal. Yesterday, though, Mr Prescott's department could not have been more upbeat about his grasp of the withholding tax.

"If you ask him today, he would trot it out in detail," a spokesman said. But that was 24 hours too late.

TAX ME NOT

The withholding tax is a proposed 20 per cent levy on interest payments received by EU residents who hold savings, particulary Eurobonds issued in the City, in another EU country. The effect would hit the City's Eurobond market hard and threaten 10,000 British jobs as investors divert money outside the EU to countries such as Switzerland.

MATTHEW FEARN/PA



Follow my leader: but John Prescott found Tony Blair a hard act to follow at Prime Minister's Questions this week

Tories propose 'senators' for Lords

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENATORS in Parliament would replace the House of Lords under proposals unveiled yesterday by a Tory-appointed commission. Most of the "SPs" would sit for 15-year non-renewable terms with similar powers to the current House.

The Constitutional Commission chaired by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the former Tory Lord Chancellor, outlined two blueprints: an almost entirely directly elected second chamber; and a part-elected, part-appointed chamber.

Its conclusion that some elections must be held gave the clearest signal yet that the Tories are moving towards backing a partially democratic second chamber. The Government favours a largely nominated House with a small, indirectly elected, element.

William Hague will consult peers and MPs before presenting the party's recommendation to the Royal Commission on reform.

Vote for change after Newark

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Newark was the by-election no one really wanted. Labour was afraid of losing the seat; the Tories were worried about not winning; the pro-European Conservatives feared they might be squeezed out before they had got started; and it was a certain third place for the Lib Dems. So, privately, there was relief all round at the Court of Appeal's decision to quash Fiona Jones's conviction for election fraud.

But the Commons needs to look at its procedures. If the Tories had had their way, the writ for the by-election would have been moved before Easter and the campaign would already have been well under way. Labour was yesterday hurriedly welcoming Ms Jones back to the fold, having largely disowned her.

More important are gaps in the law. While there is no real evidence of widespread corruption or abuse in local campaigns, last October's report on party funding from the Neill committee highlighted several shortcomings. Limits on constituency spending by candidates are quite low, around £8,000 in the average seat. The Neill report said these are "generally accepted and have, beyond any doubt, had the effect of restraining spending at the strictly local level".

The problem is that campaigning techniques have left the law looking antiquated: about when constituency campaigns can be deemed to have begun and over what counts towards expenses. The cost of telegrams is included, but there is no mention of mobile phones, of telephone canvassing (often from outside the constituency) and of other modern techniques. The committee rightly proposed that guidelines need to be revised.

This is apart from long-standing, and apparently common, abuses such as cut-price printing. The under-declaration does not appear enormous. But there is a case for raising the constituency limit to a more realistic level of, say, £25,000 or £30,000 and more rigorously enforcing it.

More serious problems arise in by-elections where the limit is already much higher (£30,000 to £35,000 in some cases) but the main parties have all been guilty of spending two or three times that amount. The Neill report recommended a limit in by-elections of perhaps £100,000.

Far more serious issues are raised by the current free-for-all on spending at a national level. The Neill committee recommended limits, which are supported by Labour. The Government will be producing its detailed response — and a draft Bill — in the summer. The Newark case underlines the need for legislation well before the next general election and for an Election Commission to supervise elections and funding.

Thatcher furious at 'vindictive' Pinochet decision

Straw attacked over go-ahead for extradition, writes Frances Gibb

BARONESS Thatcher launched a bitter personal attack on Jack Straw last night after the Home Secretary announced that General Augusto Pinochet must face extradition proceedings.

As the former Chilean dictator prepared for a lengthy stay in Britain — at least until after Christmas — Lady Thatcher accused the Mr Straw of having put "his ambitions above his duties and so demeaned his office".

She said that Mr Straw's decision was a "vindictive political act", and that "his consideration of the arguments seems to have been superficial and inadequate". She added: "This is not the decision of a fair-minded man."

Mr Straw gave the go-ahead for extradition proceedings against the 83-year-old general, who is wanted by Spain to stand trial on torture allegations, after last month's ruling by the law lords, which greatly reduced the number of charges for which he was deemed answerable.

Mr Straw said yesterday that the remaining charges were extraditable, and that there were no compassionate grounds, such as age or ill health, that should halt proceedings.

The law lords ruled last month that the general had no immunity from prosecution. But they said he could be extradited only on crimes dating from December 1988, when the International Convention on Torture came into force in Britain.

This cut from 31 to three the number of charges against him: one of torture and two of conspiracy to torture. Spain has since issued a list of 33 extra cases to bolster the argument for extradition.

The law lords' original ruling, in favour of allowing extradition proceedings on wider charges, was set aside after it emerged that one of them, Lord Hoffmann, had not declared links with Amnesty International.

The case returned yesterday to Bow Street Magistrates' Court, which adjourned proceedings until April 30. Michael Caplan, for General Pinochet, had asked the court for an adjournment so that the general's lawyers could study Mr Straw's decision to issue the Authority to Proceed.

The general remains under effective house arrest in Wentworth, Surrey. His legal team is expected to seek a judicial review of Mr Straw's decision in the High Court. A hearing to seek leave is likely to be held at the end of this month or the beginning of next, and a full hearing may be held in June.

The first step is a High Court hearing tomorrow, which will formally quash the original order by the Home Secretary for extradition proceedings to go ahead. Given the possibility of appeals, extradition proceedings are unlikely to start therefore before the autumn.

Yesterday the general's supporters, who had hoped that the case would be dropped in the light of last month's law lords ruling, expressed dismay at the Home Secretary's decision. Lord Lamont of Lerwick said: "This is a political judgment from a weak Home Secretary frightened of his own party. Jack Straw knows perfectly well that, in the end, the judges will free General Pinochet. Meanwhile, No 10 will carry on giving cups of tea to murderers, bombers, torturers, child killers and terrorists from Northern Ireland."

Fernando Barros, a close associate of the general and coordinator of the Chilean Reconciliation Movement, said that the ruling would mean only more suffering for the general, Chile and Britain.

But campaigners including Amnesty International, who have pressed for the general to be extradited to Spain, hailed the latest ruling as "a great day for humanity" and another step along the road to justice for his alleged victims.

In a letter to all the parties, setting out the Home Secretary's reasons, the Home Office said that he had considered the matter entirely afresh after the law lords' ruling. He had concluded that the general was accused in Spain of offences that dated from the relevant period and which were extraditable crimes for which he had no immunity as a former head of state.

The letter said: "The UK's obligation is to extradite Senator Pinochet to Spain consistently with the ECE [European Convention on Extradition]. That is the consideration to which the Secretary of State gives particular weight."

Even though the number of charges had dropped, they were still serious and had not happened so long ago that it would be unjust for Pinochet to stand trial for them

Mr Straw said that he had also taken into account claims that the general could face trial in Chile and the possible effect of proceedings on the stability of Chile and its relations with the Britain.

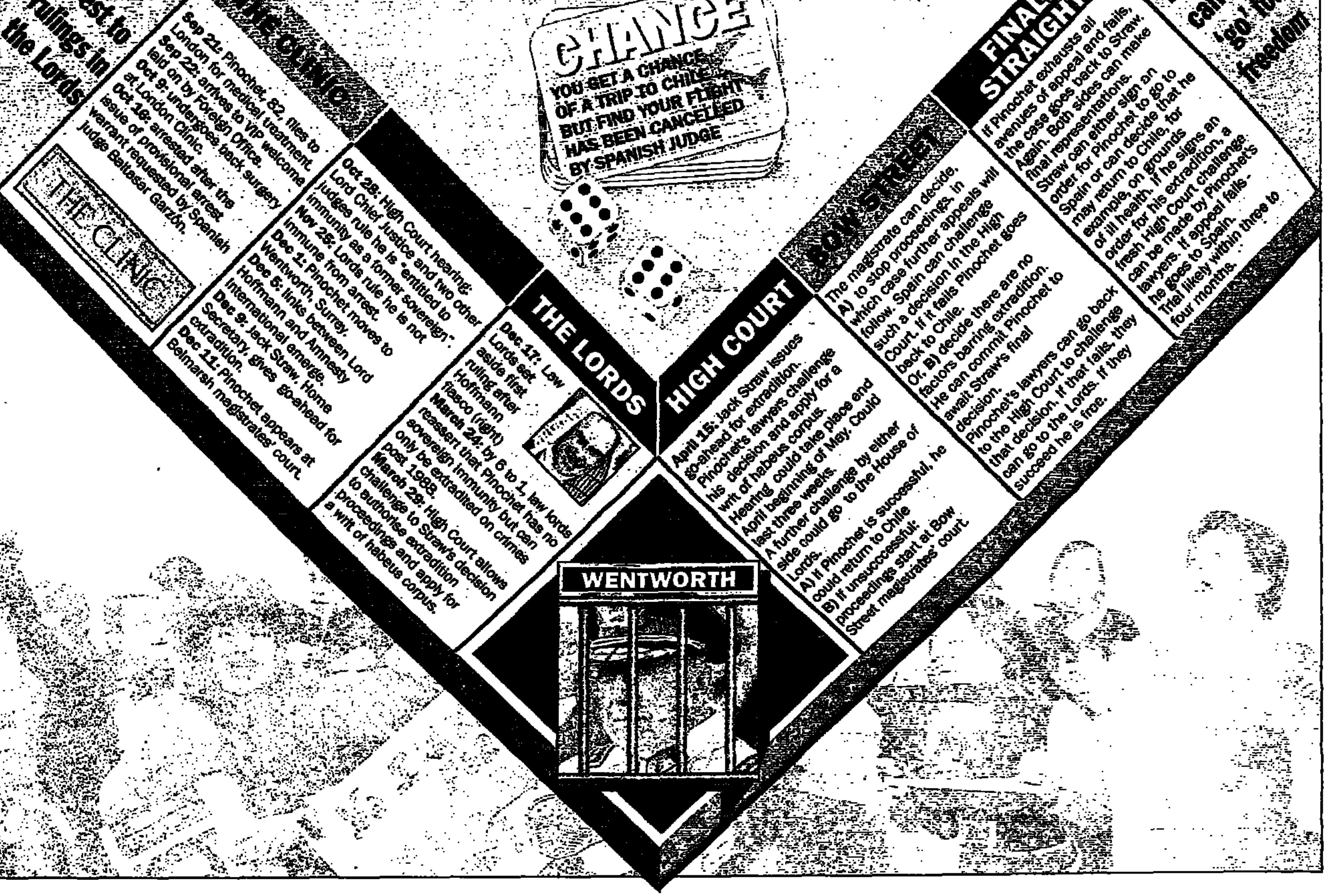
Lady Thatcher also published details of a letter that she had sent to Mr Straw, setting out "six powerful reasons" for halting the extradition process. These included that the nature of the case had changed and that the number of charges been cut dramatically.

Lady Thatcher said that it was impossible for the general to receive a fair trial in Spain because the case was being brought for political reasons, and that he would be held far more accountable if tried in Chile, where the cut-off point for offences was 1978.

She said that the general was ailing and that it would be highly embarrassing if he died in custody in Britain.

Helen Bamber, director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, based in London, said: "Mr Straw's renewed decision reconfirms what two panels of law lords had previously judged: that men such as Pinochet, Milosevic and Saddam Hussein must stand trial for their crimes against humanity."

Simon Jenkins, page 22



LEGAL COSTS RUN INTO MILLIONS

THE legal bill in the Pinochet affair is likely to reach several million pounds by the time his fate is decided. It is already thought to total more than £2 million, including the first High Court hearing and two subsequent House of Lords hearings.

Both the general and the Crown Prosecution Service, acting on behalf of the Spanish Government, have instructed teams of top lawyers. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, briefed Jonathan Sumption, QC, one of the highest-earning silks at the Bar, to defend him against a judicial review challenge over his original decision to allow extradition proceedings.

As well as the legal costs, the police have run up a bill of about £1 million for guarding the general, who is under effective house arrest at Wentworth, Surrey.

Appeals could take months

GENERAL Pinochet is facing the prospect of many months of legal proceedings.

His lawyers are expected to seek leave to challenge Jack Straw's decision that extradition proceedings should go ahead — the Authority to Proceed — in the High Court. If leave is granted within the next three weeks, a full hearing could take place in June. But whichever way the High Court rules, a challenge could be made to the House of Lords, either by lawyers for Spain or the general.

If the judicial review and subsequent appeals fail, then the scene moves to Bow Street Magistrates' Court for committal proceedings before Ronald Bartle, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate. With the summer holiday intervening, a hearing is unlikely before the autumn.

Mr Bartle has to be satisfied that the Authority to Proceed relates to an extradition crime and that there are no factors barring extradition under section 9 of the Extradition Act 1989.

Either side can challenge a decision to commit the general to await a final decision by Mr Straw.

When all appeals are exhausted, the Home Secretary receives final representations and makes his final decision on extradition. A trial in Spain would not take place for three to four months after extradition.

Cases of human 'mad cow' disease rise to 40

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

THE number of cases of new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease — the human form of "mad cow" disease — has risen to 40.

There were five deaths in the last quarter of 1998, the highest in any three-month period since the new variant was identified in 1995, when there were three cases. There were ten deaths in 1996 and 1997, and 16 last year. The latest figures show that one case was notified in the first two months of this year.

A team from the public health department at Imperial College of Medicine at St Mary's, London, has been trying to find out if there is any greater danger of people who work with animals or carcasses catching the disease.

The team reports in the *British Medical Journal* that the evidence so far is that there is no link. They studied all deaths from dementia-type illnesses between 1982 and 1996 among butchers, abattoir workers, veterinarians, farmers and their wives and found that the incidence of CJD was no higher than to be expected in the general population.

There were 12 deaths attributed to CJD in farmers over the period, but none among butchers, abattoir workers or veterinarians. None of the 13 deaths over the study period from new-variant CJD was in any of these groups

The team says it is difficult to monitor trends in such rare diseases because of the small number of deaths and doubts about the precision of diagnosis of the causes of death.

Matisse loved his son to the letter

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

HENRI MATISSE communicated with his adult children almost daily by letter, but felt unable to speak to them, according to research into the life of the Post-Impressionist master.

More than 2,000 letters were saved by his art-dealer son Pierre, who died in 1989. Hundreds of unpublished letters from the artists Miró, Chagall and Giacometti are also in the archive, used by John Russell for *Matisse: Father & Son* (Abrams) to be published next month.

Russell said the research overturned the assumption "that father and son were very distant". The Matisses were a secretive family. "None of them talked to each other. Henri loved his son and his son loved him, but they couldn't get through to each other." In a letter to his sister, Pierre wrote: "When we are together at home, we cannot talk or express the least opinion without setting a match to dynamite."


Pierre Matisse: saved his father's letters

Such tension vanished with pen and paper. Matisse confided about his health and work, including the fact that he measured the time he took on line-drawings "by playing Beethoven symphonies on the gramophone".

Experts back compulsory treatment for mentally ill

By Alexandra Frean
Social Affairs Correspondent

PLANS to allow the compulsory treatment of psychiatric patients against their will received official backing yesterday from a panel of experts formed by the Government. A survey by a mental health group also found a majority in favour of forced treatment.

The Mental Health Act Review Expert Committee said it was in favour of compulsory treatment, provided it was overseen and approved by an independent body. Consideration must be given to each patient's capacity to consent to treatment and, where possible, ways should be found to enforce compulsory treatment outside hospital, the panel said.

The committee was established last year by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who said that a "root and branch" review of mental health legislation was needed because much of current practice was "based on the needs and therapies of a bygone age". The review recognises that fundamental changes are needed to the policy of care in the community, which has been criticised after killings by psychiatric patients.

Professor Genevra Richardson, chair of the committee, said that the members had been conscious of the need to improve public confidence in the system. The committee's final recommendations will be sent to ministers in July.

Publication of the document coincided with a survey of 2,300 mental health patients, carers and health professionals by the National Schizophrenia Fellowship. A third said that the threat of compulsory treatment would stop people seeking help, but 58 per cent thought it was a good idea.

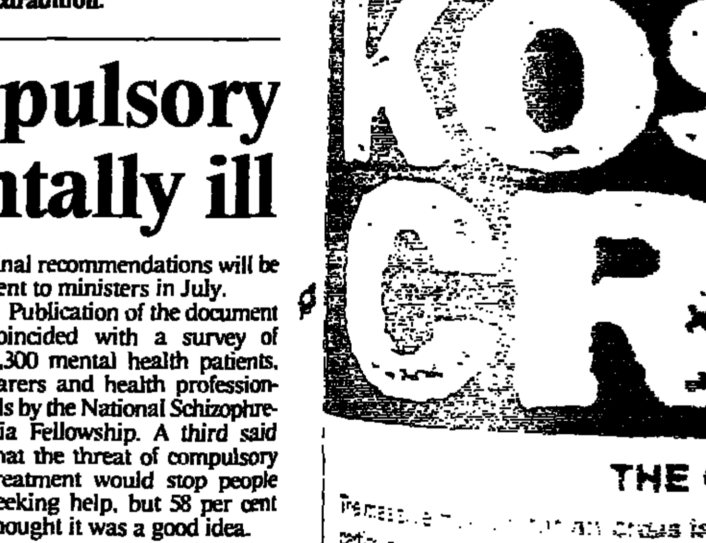
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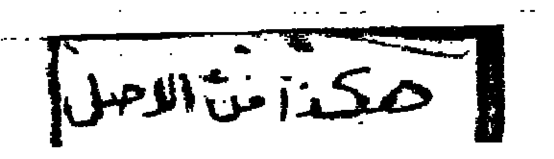
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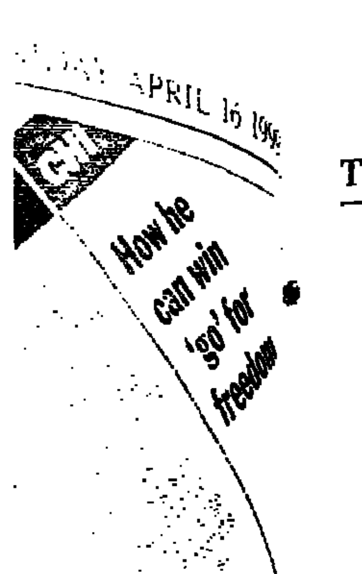


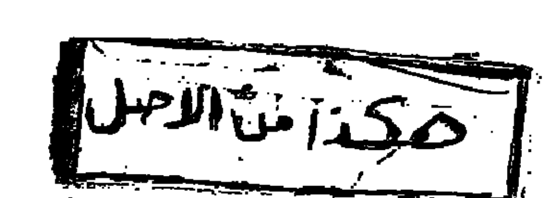
Filling the magazine market for 40-plus women; memories of John Junor (right), by a managing director; why ITV was wrong to move News at Ten

Media Times, page 38-41



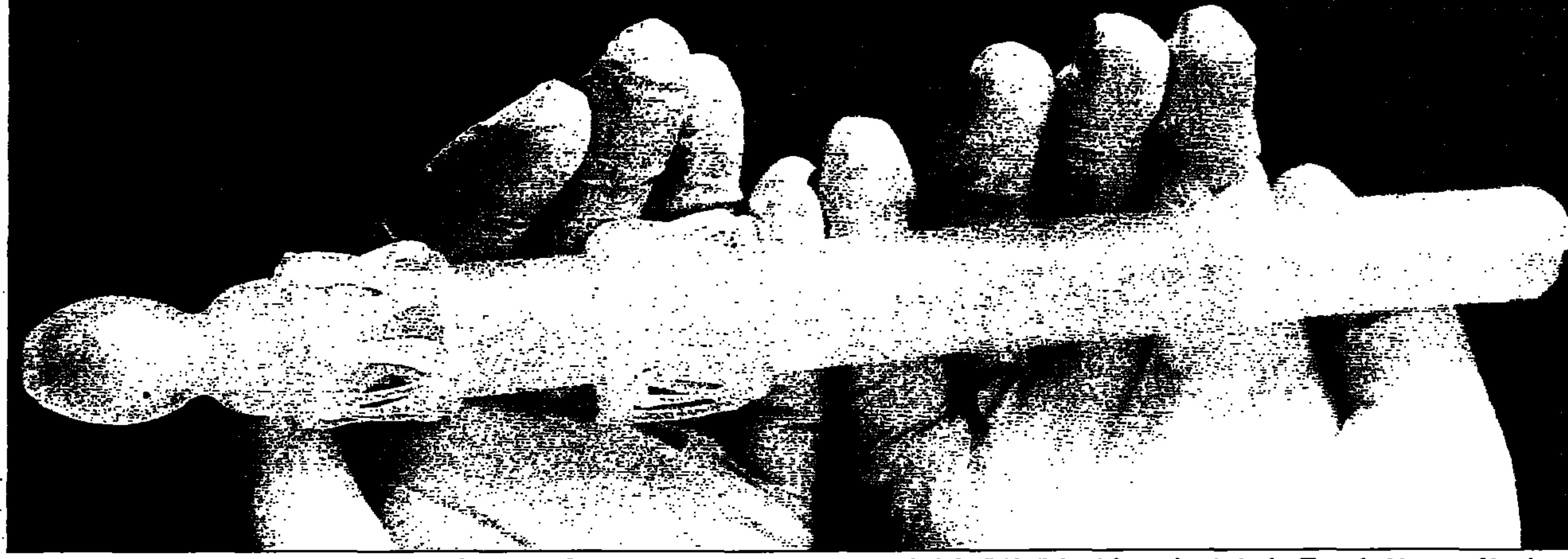






Beauty secrets of a Roman lady

ADRIAN SHERRATT



The decorated glass vessel and other objects were found at the foot of the sarcophagus at the burial site in Spitalfields. Below left, opening the lead coffin at the Museum of London

Objects unearthed with bones of a woman provide clues to her status, writes Dalya Alberge

AN EXQUISITE glass vessel that might have contained mascara, eyeliner or an oily perfume for use in the afterlife is among grave goods unearthed with the coffin of a young Roman woman in the City of London.

It is hoped that the vessel, and other treasured objects found at the foot of the stone sarcophagus containing the woman's lead coffin, will provide clues to her identity. Archaeologists believe that the 4th-century skeleton, revealed when the coffin was opened on Wednesday night, is that of the wife or daughter of a member of Roman Britain's elite.

At the Museum of London yesterday, the delicate process of removing a deep layer of silt from the coffin began. As the sediment was scraped away, it emerged that a pillow of neatly arranged leaves had been placed under the woman's head. Nothing like it had been found elsewhere. Simon Thurley, the director of the museum, said. "She was very carefully laid down. It is incredibly touching and so immediate."

As work progressed, matted gold thread, which might be part of a textile, was found. A second glass vessel — about 1ft long and probably used for food — was found between the coffin and the sarcophagus.

Little is known about 4th-century burial practices in Britain, and archaeologists are hoping to learn a great deal from the tomb, which grave robbers who ransacked other graves at the site in Spitalfields somehow missed.

John Shepherd, an authority on Roman glass, said that "whatever was inside [the vessel] was precious". Taryn Nixon, the museum's chief archaeologist, noted its "remarkable" trailed-glass decoration and said that the grave goods not only suggested a wealthy woman, but someone "much loved". She added: "Grave goods were very important ... they helped the soul on its journey to the afterworld. They comforted the dead and comforted the living in their grief." Through them they were getting "a very human perspective", because they showed as much about the living as the dead.

Among the grave goods were a jet disc and rod, the exact purpose of which is unclear. Jet, a fairly expensive material in Roman times, was used as jewellery or for the hair. The disc might have been a pendant, Jenny Hall, curator of the museum's Roman gallery, said.

A jet canister might have been a jewellery box. It is still encased in a lump of earth and the archaeologists were yesterday hoping that there might be jewels inside.

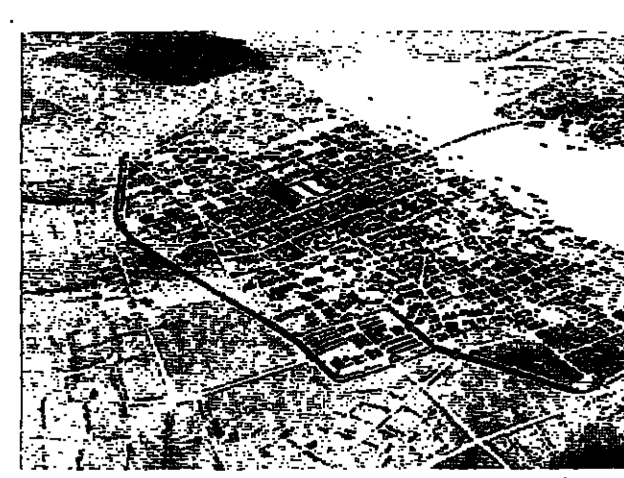
It is unlikely that the woman's bones, once removed from the silt in the coffin, will reveal why she died, unless she suffered from a severe case of cancer. Her early death — she was probably in her twenties — was not unusual at a time when only 10 per cent of the population lived beyond 45. Knowledge of medicine was rudimentary and stomach upsets and food poisoning were among the most common causes of death.

Women commonly died in childbirth and the archaeologists will be looking for any signs that this woman was pregnant. Her skull, resting on its side, will be examined for signs of a physical blow. It has already been noted that she had lost at least one tooth.

Scientists from Oxford University have taken samples for DNA testing, which should establish her racial mix. Another test could detect whether she had experienced a change of climate. The skeleton is on view at the Museum of London until April 25.

ROMAN BABY

Archaeologists investigating the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter on Capitol Hill in Rome have found the bones of a baby girl who died at the time of the foundation of Rome in the 8th century BC (Richard Owen writes). Her finders said that she had been buried with "everything she needed for the afterlife": clothes, crockery and toys.



Londinium: a circle marks the woman's burial place

Mystery woman lived during best of times in Londinium

By Alan Hamilton

LIFE was good for an uptown girl in 4th-century Londinium. With the central heating blazing away in her comfortable villa on the edge of the administrative capital of southern Britannia, she could afford to ignore the political troubles gripping the rest of the province.

London had declined slightly in influence, with the growing importance of York as the capital of the northern province. But it was still thriving and well-developed, with its large forum, its temple of Mithras, its theatre, bathhouses and its encircling wall on the landward side. And it remained the place where the Imperial treasury was kept.

Should our young woman have wished to travel, the Romans had completed more first-class roads than John Prescott is ever likely to. With the population of Britain estimated at five million, the traffic jam had yet to be invented.

By the 4th century Britain was thoroughly Romanised, except for the Celtic fringes of the North and West, which occupied most of the attention of 50,000 soldiers in three legions permanently garrisoned in Britain. The only other cloud on the horizon was the rebellion by the general Carausius, causing civil strife until the rebels were overcome by the authorities in AD296. Thereafter, military and civil powers were separated and the primary role of governors was to act less as military generals than to be efficient tax collectors.

Our woman may have been the daughter of a high Roman official, perhaps even a governor. But she may also have belonged to the prosperous commercial and professional middle class, who lived well on the proceeds of trade in their hypocaust-heated villas with their walls of brick and Kentish ragstone and their ornate mosaic floors, one of the commonest Roman signals of prosperity.

The climate then is thought to have been much the same as it is now, if perhaps a shade warmer. Agriculture was sufficiently well developed to provision three legions as well as the civilian population. However, our young woman's household would have imported olive oil from the Continent, along with fish sauce, an early version of Lea and Perrins that appears to have been an ingredient of almost every Romano-British dish, whether fish from the Thames or deer and wild boar from the encircling forests.

Roman cooks made much use of herbs, including dill, coriander and fennel, and there is evidence of plentiful apples, pears, quinces, cherries and plums, as well as cucumbers and peas. Olives and figs were imported from Italy.

It was probably the heyday of the Roman occupation. But in AD410 the Romano-British, tired of an excessive tax burden to support the imperial bureaucracy, threw out the last remaining imperial officials, not knowing they were entering a darker age of barbarian raids on their undefended land. The young woman in the coffin had had the best of it.

Bhutto faces jail and £5m bribes fine

Former leader vows to appeal against 'political verdict', writes Zahid Hussain

BENAZIR BHUTTO, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, were sentenced yesterday to five years in jail and fined £5 million on corruption charges. The conviction will lead to her disqualification from politics for five years.

Bhutto, who is in London, said last night that the conviction amounted to political victimisation and added that she would return home to face the consequences. It is clear that she will be jailed on her arrival. Zardari, who is facing trial on charges including murder and corruption, has been in prison for the past two and a half years.

The two-member bench of the Rawalpindi branch of the Lahore High Court headed by Justice Abdul Qayum said in its judgment that the prosecution evidence proved that the couple received millions of pounds in bribes.

Bhutto was accused of awarding contracts to a Swiss company in return for bribes from it. It is the first time in Pakistan's history that a former Prime Minister, who is also a leader of the opposition, has been convicted on corruption charges and disqualified from politics. Bhutto, appearing on BBC television, denied the charges and accused the judges of being biased and of being cronies of the Nawaz Sharif Government. She said she would challenge her conviction in the Supreme Court.

In Islamabad, her party spokesman said he did not think Bhutto would be arrested on return home because "we will get some relief from the Supreme Court before her arrival".

Bhutto is facing trial in five other cases of corruption by different courts across the country. There were indications that she may be convicted on those counts too.

Corruption was cited as the main reason when her second Government was dismissed in November 1996. The action was upheld by the Supreme Court and charges of misdeeds led to her Pakistan People's Party's humiliating defeat in the election of February 1997.

Bhutto suffered a serious political setback with the revelations in September 1997 of the existence of Swiss bank accounts in the name of several offshore companies allegedly owned by her husband.

Government investigators said that millions of pounds received by the couple in bribes and commissions were transferred into those accounts. Bhutto denied that she had any links with the companies and the bank accounts.

Although few can deny the allegations of widespread corruption in Bhutto's administration, the handling of the investigation by Saifur Rehman, who is head of a blatantly partial anti-corruption bureau as well as being an aide of Mr Sharif, has made the whole process controversial.

□ **Missile test:** Pakistan carried out its second ballistic missile test in 24 hours in defiance of international pressure not to fuel an worsening arms race with India. The Shaheen (Eagle) missile has a range of 375 miles. *(AFP)*

IAN HODGSON / REUTERS



Benazir Bhutto in London yesterday. She "is to go home to face the consequences"

Sudden verdict 'diverts attention from tests'

Ex-leader claims tit-for-tat missile race with India was behind abrupt verdict, says Vanora Bennett

THE former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, denounced the timing of yesterday's verdict as "a cheap political trick" by Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, to divert hostile international attention from the country's ballistic missile tests.

The ruling came suddenly, while she was still appealing to have witnesses heard. "It is a butchery of justice", she said in London and vowed to risk jail by going home to fight for her rights.

"All the allegations are false. It's been a real butchery of a trial, and I am shocked and distressed," said Oxford-educated Bhutto, who has been in London this week while her trial went on in Rawalpindi. "They are trying to take away my right of liberty, my right to contest elections and destroy my independent means so that I cannot fight. It is an abuse of the judicial process. I plan to return next week. Pakistan is where my home is. I think it's better for me to return even if I am imprisoned.

"I think the reason they hurried with this trial was because yesterday they reacted to the Indian trap of test-firing a ballistic missile. India knew that, whatever it does, copycat Nawaz Sharif would follow suit. They wanted to divert international opinion away from the ballistic test. That is why in the middle of the trial they decided to announce the judgment."

For more than a decade, corruption allegations have tainted Islamabad politics as Mr Sharif and the liberal Bhutto each came to power and each was removed early from it, both on corruption charges.

Once praised as a symbol of democracy, Bhutto, 45, has spent the three years since she last lost power scrambling to rebut charges that her family took bribes estimated by the authorities in Islamabad as worth £1 billion.

Because Mr Sharif is close to Pakistan's powerful generals, Bhutto accuses the Prime Minister of undermining the country's judicial independence and democracy to pursue a vendetta against her. She dates the feud from the 1977 toppling of her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, by General Muhammad Zia ul-Haq, who imposed martial law and whom Bhutto calls Mr Sharif's mentor.

"These are people who killed my father to remove him from the political scene, and they are trying to eliminate me, to do my political killing," she said.

Bhutto paints the battle for Pakistani hearts as a fight between two forces, "the force of theocracy as represented by Mr Sharif, and the force of liberalism as represented by me. The verdict is still out on who will win."

Both Bhuttos have had a magnetic appeal for Pakistan's poor. But both were a disappointment in office, exhausting their energies in political manoeuvring and, their critics say, in sleazy politics.

Charges of corruption did not stick after Bhutto's first dismissal, in 1990. But since the second dismissal, in 1996, her reputation has been compromised as the investigation moved beyond Pakistan. Last year, a Swiss magistrate said that he had amassed enough evidence to indict Bhutto on money-laundering charges. The evidence he sent to the trial included documentation of the purchase of a diamond necklace worth £100,000.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Poll fraud ends Algeria hopes

Paris: After a seven-year civil war of medieval barbarity, which has cost an estimated 700,000 lives, Algeria yesterday failed to organise a credible election, thereby shutting the door on any hopes for peace (Adam Sage writes).

With only the Government-approved candidate left in the race after the rest withdrew in protest at alleged vote-rigging, the authorities are bracing themselves today for mass protests. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, 62, the only candidate left in the race, said he was ready to assume power despite the controversy over the poll. M Bouteflika, a former Foreign Minister, is backed by the army, a large section of the political establishment and the country's most powerful trade union.

KLM shreds squirrels

Amsterdam: KLM, the Dutch airline, apologised for using a shredding machine to kill 440 Chinese squirrels shipped illegally to The Netherlands. Reacting to public disgust, it called the slaughter, in which the animals were dropped, apparently alive, into a shredder of the type common in the poultry industry, an unethical mistake. But it said it had little choice after failing to find a home for the animals, which arrived from China last week without proper documentation. *(AP)*

Hillary's invitation

Washington: President Clinton and his wife may be plagued by rumours about their relationship but Hillary Clinton is set to paint a picture of domestic bliss (Damian Whitworth writes). She is writing a book, *An Invitation to the White House*, about their home entertaining, from visits by heads of state and official delegations to traditional annual receptions, private parties and Christmas celebrations — all lavishly illustrated with photographs, guest lists and recipes.

Netanyahu ally jailed



Jerusalem: Arieh Deri, right, a key ally of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was jailed for four years for corruption — a sentence that, ironically, could boost support for Mr Netanyahu in the general election on May 17 (Christopher Walker writes). Political observers said that the sentence on Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox, ethnically-based Shas party, could rally its Sephardic supporters to the polls.

Shooting baby lives

Sydney: A baby girl was delivered alive after her eight-months pregnant mother, 26, shot herself in the head. The baby was in a critical condition in Canberra Hospital after being airlifted from Temora in southern New South Wales, police said. The woman, the wife of a police officer, was found dead by her husband at her home. *(AFP)*

Six killed in air crash

Shanghai: A Korean Air MD11 cargo plane crashed near here leaving at least six dead and more than 40 people on the ground injured, officials said. Flight KE 6316 crashed in heavy rain shortly after take-off from Shanghai's Hongqiao airport. A senior Korean Air official said that a bomb may have caused the crash, but this had not been verified. *(AFP)*

Yeltsin salutes Russia's prima donna of pop

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW


Alla Pugacheva and President Yeltsin yesterday, who told the nation's favourite singer he was a fan because she "opposed those who wanted to prohibit, to erect obstacles"

ALLA PUGACHEVA, Russia's best-loved songstress, celebrated her fiftieth birthday yesterday to an incredible outpouring of adoration from the whole country.

President Yeltsin shared a glass of champagne in the Kremlin with the woman they call "The Prima Donna," and awarded her the Order of Service to the Fatherland, Second Class.

"First Class is awarded only to the President as a symbol of his power," he explained to the joyful Ms Pugacheva. She was accompanied by her young pop star husband, Fillip Kirkorov, and Valentin Yudashkin, a designer.

The *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper published Ms Pugacheva's home address last week as part of its campaign to persuade readers to take one rose each to her door in the hope that she would receive a million roses for her birthday.

She emerged yesterday morning, cigarette holder in hand, to greet screaming rose-bearing fans before she sped off to the Kremlin in her trademark white limousine. "Come back when I'm sixty," she laughed.

Ms Pugacheva was Russia's first real pop star. She had no interest in politics and sang only love songs, like *Robot*, her first song played on early morning radio in 1965, and *Iceberg*, a later song with the lyrics, "You are as cold as an iceberg, your sorrows lie under the dark water". She was the first Russian star to have her turbulent private life scrutinised by the tabloid press.

Even now, rumours about plastic surgery and her much-loved gap teeth, which miraculously moved together last year; attempts to have a child by Mr Kirkorov, and a possible near fatal illness resulting in dramatic weight loss, dominate Russia's more frivolous newspapers. She married Mr Kirkorov — her third husband who is over twenty years her junior — in 1994, three years after the birth of her first grandchild, Nikita. Ms Pugacheva's daughter heard about the wedding on the news and sent a telegram reading: "Dear Mum and Dad, congratulations."

Ms Pugacheva is famous for her short skirts and love life as much as for her songs.

Komsomolskaya Pravda said yesterday: "Love her or hate her, she is part of life, part of our heritage."

In the 1970s people used to joke that President Brezhnev would be remembered as a politician of the Pugacheva era. Mr Yeltsin appeared to be protecting himself from any attempts to update the old joke yesterday, saying: "Many of us can claim to have lived in the Pugacheva era."

He told the singer he had become a fan early in her career when she "opposed those who wanted to prohibit, to erect obstacles ... I also fought, and in this we are similar". In Soviet times the authorities considered some of her songs too racy for release, though in 1991, President Gorbachev officially honoured her by making her a People's Artist of the USSR — the last, as it turned out.

Yesterday, the media were falling over themselves to applaud her, even re-running Mr Kirkorov's documentary in her honour, which three years ago was seen by 85 per cent of the Russian public.

LINKS

http://www.alla.net/ — This is an unofficial Alla Pugacheva website and fan club.

http://lighthouse.nsys.by/music/photos/pugacheva/index.htm — This site is in Russian, but has a good selection of photographs.

Retired UN envoy raped in Pretoria

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NINE men were arrested yesterday after an elderly retired United Nations diplomat visiting South Africa was raped by a gang of robbers who broke into the house where she was staying in Pretoria.

The 64-year-old American woman's two-hour ordeal has again highlighted the increasing brutality accompanying the crimewave that has engulfed South Africa.

The former diplomat, who used to work with Unicef and other children's charities, was attacked by the robbers after they cut their way through an electric fence surrounding the house in Waterkloof Ridge, Pretoria's diplomatic suburb, at about 1.30am.

Police Inspector Helene Heerden, who is leading the investigation, said that the woman was attacked in her bedroom while other members of the gang ransacked the house.

They then forced her out of the house into a nearby field where she was raped again before she was thrown down a slope. She was found, severely shocked, two hours after the alarm was raised.

A police dog unit was called in and three suspects were arrested soon afterwards and some of the stolen goods were recovered. The other six suspects were arrested within hours and will appear in court on Monday.

'Newt's salute' heralds return of ex-Speaker

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH, the former House Speaker thrown into the political wilderness five months ago, has dramatically returned to the limelight with a spectacular gala dinner in Washington to raise cash that will promote his views and perhaps pave the way for another bid for office.

Mr Gingrich resigned last November after the poor Republican showing in mid-term elections, and while he has made few public pronouncements since then, the conservative politician has been quietly preparing his power base, rallying his friends and making money, for himself and for his political future.

The "Salute to Newt" at the Capitol Hilton hotel on Wednesday, drawing some 600 Newt-fanciers paying more than $1,000 (£615) a head, had all the glitzy hallmarks of a campaign rally, although the focus of the event is not a candidate for anything — celebrities such as Mary Tyler Moore, the actress, and Jay Leno, the talk-show host, fulsome tributes to the former speaker, patriotic songs, prayers and a video presentation of the life and times of Mr Gingrich narrated by Charlton Heston.

Any suggestion that Mr Gingrich has lost his political clout was dispelled by the guest list, which included 52 members of Congress and the man who has succeeded him as speaker, Dennis Hastert.

The dinner was expected to raise at least $1 million for FONG, the somewhat unlikely acronym for Friends Of Newt Gingrich, his new political action committee that has already raked in thousands of dollars in donations from Gingrich supporters.

Mr Gingrich, whose "Contract with America" platform helped engineer a Republican majority in the House for the first time in four decades, is now positioning himself as an ideological "Godfather" to the party, dispensing wisdom and cash to Republican candidates who share the former speaker's views on three central issues: limiting taxes to 25 per cent of income, protecting and reforming the Social Security system and building a national missile defence network.


Gingrich: hallmarks of a glitzy campaign rally

"Together we accomplished a lot. It was a decisive transition in power," Mr Gingrich told his adoring audience.

Gingrich associates say that he will not consider running for office until after elections in 2000, with the governorship of Georgia in 2002 and even the presidency in 2004 or 2008 cited as likely targets.

"I'm just the age Ronald Reagan was when he first ran for governor," he said pointedly when asked about his ambitions.

Mr Gingrich was always a formidable fundraiser. In 1997-98 he collected $86 million on behalf of Republicans.

But out of office and unrestrained by congressional rules on ethics, he has been raking in cash at a remarkable rate.

Since standing down he has given some 38 speeches, at $50,000 a time, to such varied audiences as car dealers and Internet technicians.

The Washington Post estimated that in 1999 he will make an astonishing $3 million in speaking fees alone.

SIX OF THE BEST

Scented body lotions

TRANQUIL SLEEP, £6.95
With vanilla, cedarwood and clary sage essential oils, this is easy to use; skin feels smooth after use and smells gorgeous.
Bath & Body Works stores nationwide and mail order (01923 221411)
8/10

MILK, £2.50
A powerful and nourishing moisturiser results in smooth skin but the sickly candyfloss scent is too potent for comfort.
Natural Collection at Boots stores nationwide (0845-0708090)
7/10

NEROLI, £8.99
Easy to apply and quickly absorbed, leaving skin soft. A definite improvement after just three days.
Tisserand mail order (01273 325666)
10/10

TOUCH, £20
A clear silicone lotion that can be used all over the body as a fragrance or for skin care. Very light scent; leaves a sheen.
Tocca, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge and Leeds (0171-235 5000)
9/10

ROSEWOOD, £9.95
A little of this goes a long way, leaving skin velvet-smooth and smelling subtly of rosewood.
L'Occitane, 237 Regent Street W1 or 70 Kensington High Street W8 (0171-290 1421)
8/10

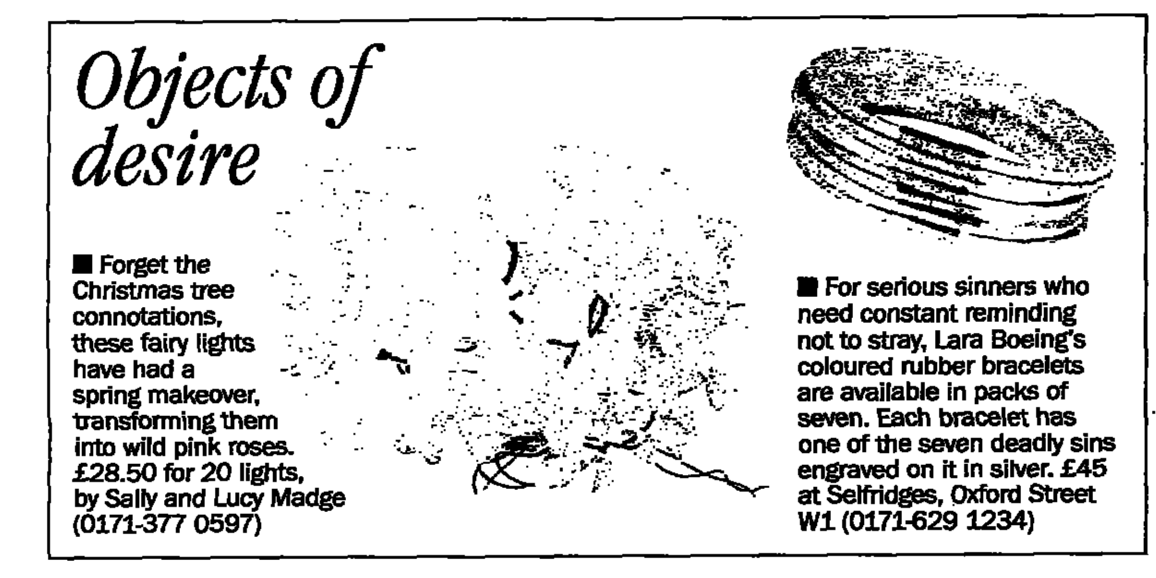
HYDROACTIVE, £23
Smooth and creamy without being greasy. Quickly absorbed, leaving skin silky. Pleasantly scented, not overpowering.
Darphin, Harrods SW1, and House of Fraser, Bluewater, Kent, and various salons (0181-847 1777)
10/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

HOT TIP



Perfect for touching-up roots, giving hair a sunkissed look or adding streaks of colour from honey through to berry, chestnut and black. Simply dip colour pen in water and paint away. The colour will wash out after one shampoo. Change Your Locks by Origins, £10, from department stores nationwide (0800-731 4039)



Objects of desire

■ Forget the Christmas tree connotations, these fairy lights have had a spring makeover, transforming them into wild pink roses. £28.50 for 20 lights, by Sally and Lucy Madge (0171-377 0597)

■ For serious sinners who need constant reminding not to stray, Lara Boeing's coloured rubber bracelets are available in packs of seven. Each bracelet has one of the seven deadly sins engraved on it in silver. £45 at Selfridges, Oxford Street W1 (0171-629 1234)

Wrapping up a head sculpture



CAMERA PRESS

Preparation is all: the line between looking like the walking wounded and a handsome courtesan is as fine as the most fragile muslin wrap

Alex O'Connell finds a Sikh teacher who hides her hair in a seductive turban

While less sculptured headgear sits on your crown like a dead cat riding an upside-down breakfast bowl, the turban is a sleek, shapely alternative that turns a boy into a warrior and a girl into a princess.

Since the early Eighties, when owners of New York art galleries teamed them with cigarette holders and bat-winged jumpers, I have always wanted to cover my pate with a piece of crushed velvet.

Not only do turbans make the most drab boys look like Rudolph Valentino in *The Sheik* or Richard Burton in *The Rains of Ranchpur*, they can also conceal unwashed locks or that unfortunate *Prisoner Cell Block H* hairdo that your hairdresser insisted was "very Joan of Arc".

But the line between looking like the walking wounded and a handsome courtesan is as fine as the most fragile muslin wrap. And although it looks as though it should be as simple as tying your laces, getting a turban tied in the proper way may be the difference between holding your head up high and spending the evening in the Ladies stabbing yourself with a handful of kirby grips.

In the past the most famous Hollywood turban-wearers have had a team of assistants on hand to fold and flatter them. It is most unlikely that the Latin actress Carmen Miranda, known as the Brazilian Bombshell, who decorated hers with fruit, and the Twenties seductress Gloria Swanson, whose fishnet half-turban matched her long, fingerless gloves, managed by themselves. But ever since my mother gave me a receding hairline with her fierce pre-school hair-plaiting sessions, I have always taken full responsibility for my fashion mistakes.

I decided to get some training from a man who knows how: a Sikh teacher who has been giving lessons in turban-tying at the Victoria and Albert Museum to coincide with an exhibition to mark 300 years of Sikhism.

Traditionally, turbans were worn by Sikhs to keep long hair neat and tidy. The Sikh holy book, *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji*, had a motto: "Handsome is thy turban and sweet is thy speech." My teacher, Mohinder Singh Mand from Hounslow, a turban-shaped man with magic hands, had both these attributes.

Preparation is all, he insisted. Before you put the material anywhere near your head, two people must stretch the five-metre cloth and fold it together. By the end of the display I figured that even Joan Crawford, the most loyal turban-wearer who once did a nine-city promotion without taking hers off, would have torn her hair out before tying the topknot.

While I perched on a stool Singh Mand explained the importance of the first fold. He wrapped the cloth tightly — making sure that the material was lower on the right side of my head and higher on the left — until my ears were throbbing like Meatloaf's amplifier.

When my skull was almost covered and only my crown exposed, he pulled the first fold back and fanned it open to cover the bare bit before tucking the last fold in at the back. I looked like Joan Collins. Then began the unwrapping process. Rather than my whirling around like a dervish while my hair was uncovered, the turban was removed in a couple of speedy motions.

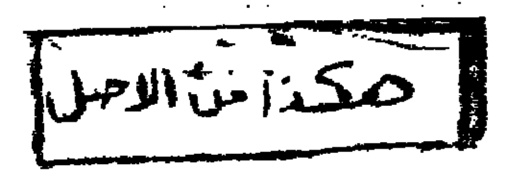
Shortly afterwards I tried to find suitably long scarves so I could re-enact the scene. At Joseph I found toffee-and-cream stripes made by the young designer Neisha Crosland. For an extravagant £90 they are as light as a spider's web and made me feel like a Victorian lady explorer.

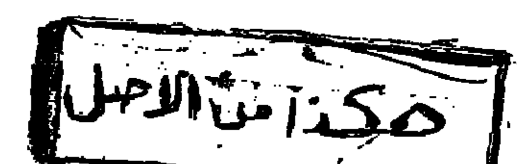
For those who can't sleep unless their dusters have a designer label, Gucci has two-metre flowery scarves in Pucci-style pinks, yellows, blacks and greens made from crushed georgette silk for £115.

For a snip of the price Jigsaw has some oversized hankies in black and white cotton for £6.95. Unless you have a nose the size of a DC10, they are best wrapped around the head. Most elegant is Agnès B, which has the most beautiful off-white/lilac material strips in the lightest linen for £52.

But cheap and authentic cloth can be found at any good Indian material shop for a fraction of the cost. For leopardskin and printed turban material in African designs, try Pitch 17 of Brixton Market, where long scarves sell for between £2.50 and £7.99. And if you still cannot face coming back from the supermarket knowing that your head is bigger than your shopping bag, the Aquis hair turban is ideal for the nervous novice. The super-absorbent strip that I found in Harrods for £19.95 will curb summer colds and make you feel like a vintage Elizabeth Taylor.

Jane Shilling is on holiday.





‘I feel weary. When will this madness end?’

Three weeks ago **Sandra Parsons**, *who is married to a Serb, gave her* reaction to the Nato offensive. Here *is her diary of the war*

Thursday, March 25
Yesterday, Nato launched into war against Serbia. I married *Serge, a doctor, in January* 1994 in his home town of Leskovac, in Southeast Serbia, and we have visited his family there once or twice a year ever since. *The fear that they may now be bombed is like nothing* I have experienced: I am quivering with tension.

As I am about to leave the office, Serge phones to say our neighbours have called to apologise for the bombing. They are insisting that they take us, and our three-year-old daughter Isabella, out for a drink in our local Café Rouge to try to cheer us up.

I meet them there and we have a wonderful hour's respite from the war. We arrive home at 9.30 feeling relaxed for the first time in two days. Almost immediately, the *phone rings. It is a friend in* Sweden, calling to tell us that Leskovac has been bombed.

Ten minutes later, we get through to Serge's parents, Vida and Ljubisa. All the windows in their house have shattered, but they are unharmed. I am weak with relief but feel as though we are all in a surreal film: I cannot believe this is happening.

There are no air-raid shelters in Leskovac, a small town about the size of Maidenhead which has two military barracks, one disused. Vida and Ljubisa, who are in their late fifties, had realised they could *not shelter in their cellar* because it still contains some oil for their central heating. My father-in-law, a civil engineer, had decided the safest spot was in a door-frame in the centre of the house. So there they sat, for several hours, while the sirens wailed, until finally they heard two explosions, followed by a soft pattering sound which they took to be rain.

Overcome by curiosity, they *plucked up* courage to look through a window at the back of the house. "The sky was spectacular; shades of crimson and orange, really rather beau*tiful," says Vida. "And then we* realised that the sound was not rain, but little pieces of debris drifting down."

We spend the next two *hours* on the phone, calling relatives and friends. They are all unhurt, but their fear is overwhelming. Serge's 26-year-old cousin Ivana is literally hysterical. We feel powerless, furious and guilty, all at once, that they are in danger and we are not.

At 11.30 we realise we have not eaten any dinner, but are too exhausted to contemplate so much as buttering a *slice* of bread. For the second night running, Isabella has fallen asleep on the sofa. We have got to get a grip.



"I feel I empathise with the refugees even more"

Friday, March 26
The response to my piece in *The Times* takes me completely by surprise. People are universally warm and sympathetic; I feel uplifted and then — when *Times* Magazine columnist John Diamond sends me a fax saying how moved he is, ending with "it must be awful for you" — humbled. You *can never, of* course, compare suffering; nevertheless, it seems to me that having no tongue and contemplating your death from cancer is a worse *form of suffering than* ours — albeit just as arbitrary.

In the evening we call Serge's parents. The bombs that fell on Leskovac were dropped by RAF Harriers; they destroyed the barracks, but also (presumably by mistake) Serge's old school, in the centre of town. *This explains* why Vida and Ljubisa's windows shattered; the barracks are two miles away, but the school is only 500 metres or so distant. The news that his school has been bombed — by the British — sends Serge into a state of almost comical bewilderment.

Sunday, March 28
We are spending the weekend with my brother and his family in Sussex. My parents are here too, and we are very deliberately not watching the news. For all our sakes, but especially Isabella's, we desperately need an injection of something approaching normality. We go to the beach, where Isabella and her two-year-old cousin Myles spend a happy hour building sandcastles.

My mother says she under*stands* what we are going through: "This is how it was for us in the Second World War," she says gently. "Never knowing whether people you loved were going to be killed. You will learn to live with it. You must." As she is currently undergoing painful chemotherapy with enormous stoi*cism, I take her point.*

Tuesday, March 30
Dreadful stories of thousands of refugees fleeing Kosovo. All human misery is on their *faces*. Oddly, I feel I empathise with them even more than I would have done were I not connected to the country so persecuting them.

Thursday, April 1
Isabella is playing one of her favourite games, pretending to call a friend on her toy phone. "Mmm, yes, how are you?" she says chattily into the receiver. "Yes, they threw bombs at *their houses. Terrible, isn't it?"* Of course, she does not know what a bomb is, but my stomach is watery with shock.

Apart from the night the bombing began, we have been *scrupulous in never watching* the news, or *talking* about the war, unless she is asleep. But clearly she has overheard us on the phone, and inevitably she picks up on the undercurrent of tension which, try as we might, we cannot altogether disguise. She has taken to coming into our bed every night and we have made no effort to return her to her own room; we are suffused with an *almost animal instinct to hold* her close. She is the only one of our family we can at least attempt to protect.

Friday, April 2
Good Friday. I truly believe that even if I were not married to a Serb, I would still be virulently opposed to this war. It seems to me ill-conceived, morally wrong, and quite patently it is not working. It has successfully destroyed what small roots of democracy there were in Serbia; it has united even liberal, intelligent Serbs with Milosevic, a man they all previously despised; and it has undoubtedly hastened the suffering of the Kosovans.

In the process, it looks likely that it will also destroy Serbia, a country already brought to its economic knees by sanctions. In all my visits there I have never *met anyone pro*-Milosevic; I have met dozens for whom life no longer has any hope or meaning. And that was before all this.

Thursday April 8
Midnight. It is years since Serge and I talked about Serbian history and politics, *but I* insist he explains to me why the majority of Serbs hate the Kosovo Albanians so much. Clearly, they know about the ethnic cleansing, but don't care. We begin talking in bed and eventually put our dressing gowns on and sit until the early *hours at the kitchen table*. He explains as best he can. For decades the Serbians were the oppressed minority in Kosovo; there was a continuous trickle out as they were intimidated, beaten up and burnt out of their homes. Milosevic cunningly exploited *that* discontent by promising to remove Kosovo's autonomy, and as a result swept to power in 1987. The hatred is equal on both sides.

In addition, the Serbs will point out that no one cared when 800,000 of them were ethnically cleansed from Croatia and western Bosnia in the Bosnian War, and that the West was only too happy to hail Milosevic as the man of *the moment when it came to* the Dayton agreement.

Serge is beside himself with emotional exhaustion; confused and in despair. He and *his family have never shared* the Serbian taste for nationalism; they were not brought up that way. It is an element of his country he loathes, and does not properly understand.

As we go back to bed at 3am, he is adamant that he does not want to watch, or read, any more about this war. He left Serbia in 1992 to avoid being called up to fight in the Bosnian War; he is finding this latest grim episode in Ser*bia's history too much to bear.* "The one thing I am sure of is that this is the end of Serbia. I only want to know that my family are alive every day. Just tell me when it's all over."

Saturday, April 10
It is the day before the Orthodox Serbian Easter Day, and under Vida's instructions I go with Isabella to the Serbian Orthodox church in search of the special dye used to paint eggs. The doors are locked; I try them again and a priest opens them. "Are you open?" I ask, in English.

"Come in," he says, clearly *astonished as* to why an Englishwoman wants to come to his church. "I am just cleaning, but you are most welcome." After another minute, *his curiosity* overcomes his manners: "Are you married to a Serb?"

I light many candles. As we leave he gives Isabella a bottle of holy water and asks if we are coming to the service that evening. When I tell him no, he says: "Then say a prayer for peace at 7 o'clock. If enough people pray, peace will come."

Sunday, April 11
Visit Vesna and Ivitce, refugees from the Bosnian War. They are concerned about Russia pointing nu*clear missiles* at *the* West: I dismiss it as posturing. "That is your Western *mentality*," says Ivitce. "I promise you, the Rus*sians* are *bankrupt, unemployed* and angry. That is a nation ready for war."

9pm. Ljubisa rings to say they have just heard a massive explosion.

Monday, April 12
We realise what the explosion was: the accidental bombing of a train on a bridge near Leskovac. Ten people are dead.

Tuesday, April 13
I am on the phone to one of Serge's cousins, telling her that Robin Cook says Serb soldiers are systematically rap*ing Kosovo Albanian women*. "That's not true," she says firmly. Gently, I say that they did the same thing with Bosnian Muslim women. "I know they did," she says. "But you don't understand. The Serbs hate the Kosovo Albanians; apart from anything else, they *think they are dirty. I am tell*ing you, I know the Serb mentality. They would not want even to touch those women."

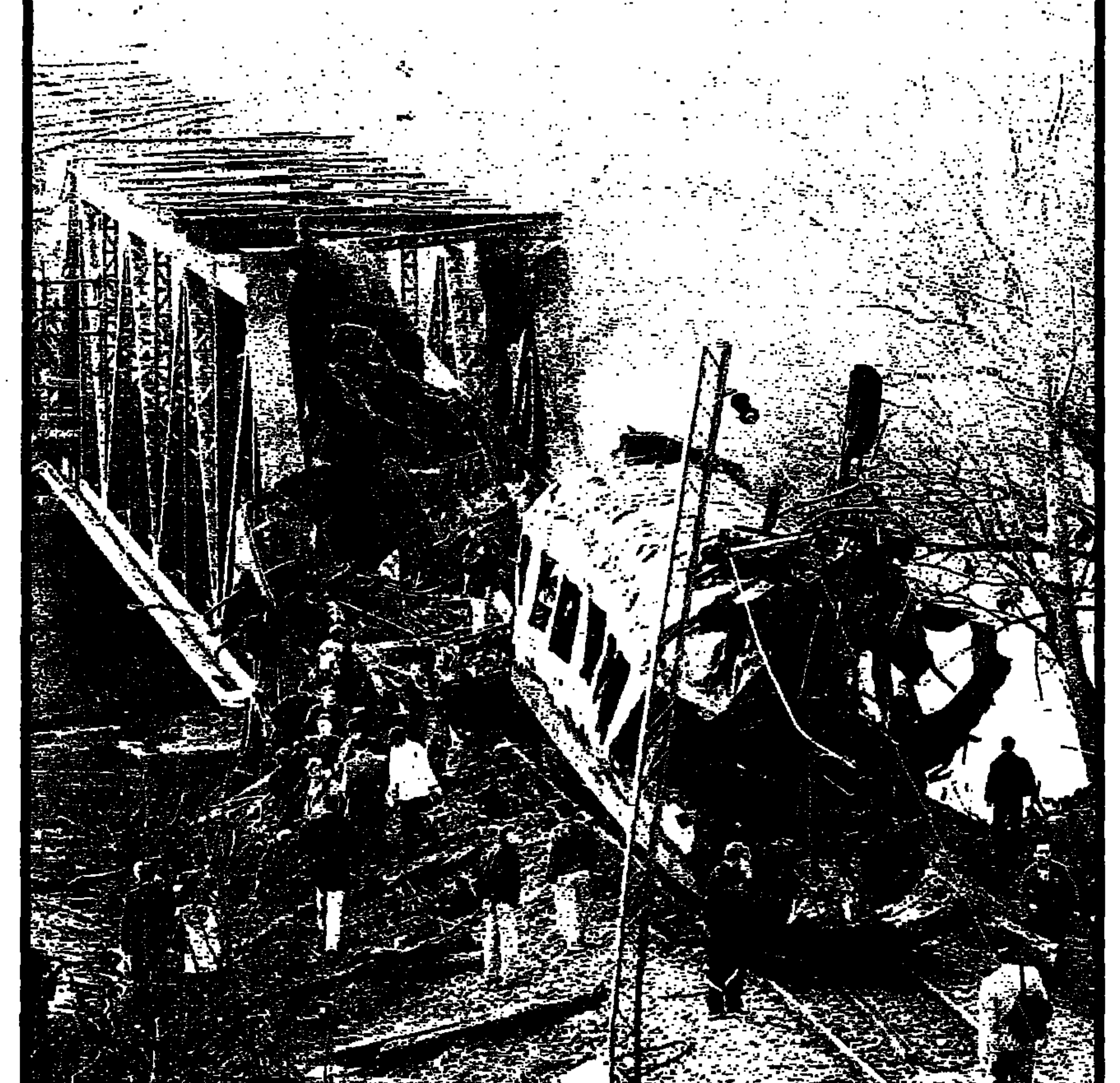
Wednesday, April 14
I read a newspaper article saying there is no independent evidence to support the stories of *rape*. Who *knows* what the truth is? What we have learnt is that just as Serge's family cannot believe anything they hear or read over there, so we cannot believe anything said by Nato or the Ministry of Defence here. It is a cliché that *truth is the first casualty of* war, but just how much that is so, I am only now beginning to realise.

Later in the day come re*ports of a refugee convoy* being bombed by Nato in Kosovo, killing 64. I watch the 11pm news, listening as Nato says it is *investigating*, but it seems *the attack was by the* Serbs, disguised to appear as if by Nato. Instantly, I know it was Nato; if it were not, they would have denied it vehemently and immediately.

As I listen to Tony Blair saying we cannot believe anything said by the Serbs, as it is all *propaganda*, I find myself saying to the TV screen: and what you are saying is not?

Thursday, April 15
Nato has admitted it did bomb the convoy. It deeply regrets the loss of civilian life. America says the bombardment of Serbia could continue until the *summer. I feel unutterably* weary. When is this madness going to end?

EMIL VAS/REUTERS



"We realise what the explosion was: the accidental bombing of a train on a bridge near Leskovac. Ten people are dead"

A line in the sand which wins respect

A partitioned Kosovo is best, says Sir Malcolm Rifkind

So far, the results of Nato's military intervention in Yugoslavia have been appalling. The bombing has given President Milosevic an unprecedented chance to drive about a million Kosovans into exile. It has, for the first time in years, united the Serbs behind their dictator. It has jeopardised tiny Montenegro's brave attempts to distance itself from Mr Milosevic. And it may be the final nail in the coffin for Russia's liberals and Westernisers.

And yet our instincts tell us there is a powerful moral case for Nato's actions. The bombing has an honourable intent even if the benefits have yet to manifest themselves. We are asked to be patient; to allow the bombing to destroy Serbia's military might until, inevitably, Mr Milosevic comes to his senses.

I would dearly like to believe that this is what will happen but the evidence is very fragile. Of course, Mr Milosevic does not like the damage being done to his military capability, but before long Nato will run out of serious military targets. What then? There is, rightly, no desire to destroy Serbia's economic infrastructure or to bomb its cities. Air power has serious limitations when ground attack is not available and when only military targets are permissible.

There is a basic fault in the strategy so far and one has a duty to refer to it. If Nato had a fundamental aversion to the deployment of ground forces, it should have limited the bombing campaign's objectives to those that can be achieved by air power alone. Mr Milosevic's air defences are being destroyed and he is paying a high military price for his ethnic cleansing. These are real achievements, that have always been deliverable by bombing, but there is as yet no evidence that they will force Mr Milosevic out of Kosovo.

Nato was unwise to rule out ground troops so clearly

If Nato wanted to enforce a political accord on the ground, it was unwise to have excluded the use of ground forces so unequivocally. Mr Milosevic is an evil man but he is no fool. One cannot rule out ground forces without that message being heard clearly in Belgrade. Mr Milosevic and the Serbs know that if they are prepared to accept punishment from the air, they cannot be forced out of Kosovo.

I am acutely aware that it is always very easy for armchair critics to attack what Nato or the Government are doing. Diplomacy often requires the least bad solution when perfect responses are not available. A policy may not be logical but that does not mean it is necessarily wrong. As Defence, and then Foreign, Secretary I faced the same awful choices as George Robertson and Robin Cook. Accordingly, having expressed my grave concerns, let me suggest a way forward from the present debacle. Nato has three options.

If Bill Clinton and Tony Blair genuinely believe that bombing alone will force Mr Milosevic to concede all their demands, they must soldier on and time will prove whether they are right or wrong.

If, at least privately, they have lost their confidence in the bombing alone strategy, but they are still immovable on ground forces, they must prepare the public for the Serbs to stay in Kosovo and a major defeat for Nato. Such an endgame would be as much of a disaster for Nato as for the Kosovans.

That leaves the third option of ground forces. Three weeks ago I would have been against their deployment. I still believe that it would result in years of military occupation, a Serb guerrilla campaign and significant Western casualties. But Nato has committed itself too far and too unambiguously to settle for less than a clear defeat of Mr Milosevic. It is not just a matter of Nato pride. Since the start of hostilities, the expulsion of the Kosovans has transformed a local tragedy into a European crisis, worse than anything since 1945. Mr Milosevic has made a Nato climbdown impossible.

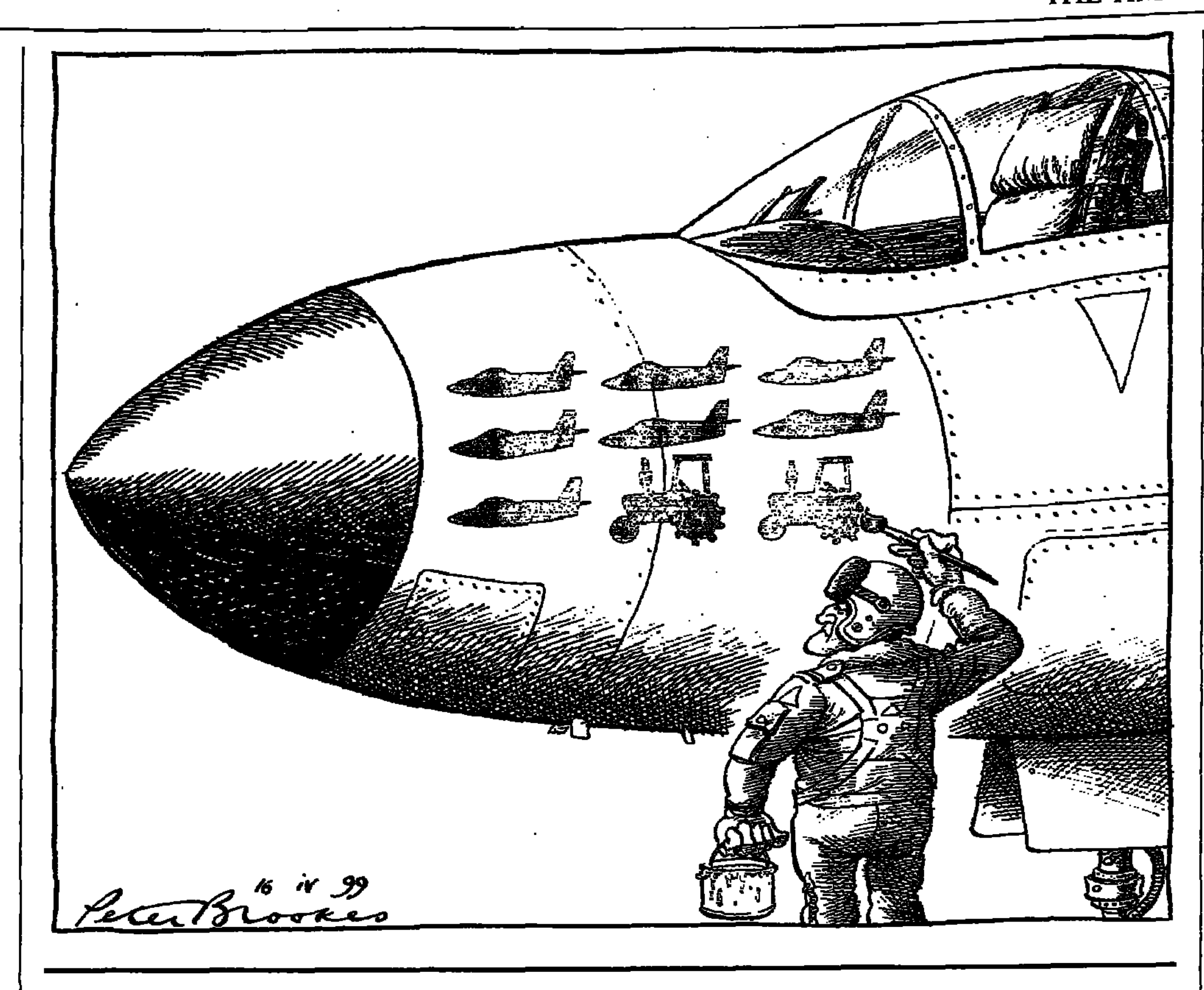
That does not make a Nato ground invasion inevitable, but it does make the credible threat of such an invasion an essential part of a new diplomatic initiative to secure an acceptable peace. A negotiated settlement would, inevitably, involve an element of compromise but that should not be unacceptable to Nato or Western public opinion. The Serbs do have a legitimate and historic interest in Kosovo, which has been part of their country for most of this century. A significant minority of Kosovo's natural population are Serbs and their rights must be respected. Demands for unconditional surrender from Mr Blair or President Clinton are as unwise as they are unrealistic.

The basis of a negotiated settlement should be a division of Kosovo, with the greater part becoming an independent state for the Kosovo Albanians and a small area, including the sites of greatest historic and cultural importance to the Serbs, being integrated into Yugoslavia.

The negotiations with the Serbs should be conducted by Nato and Russia jointly. Moscow has more influence with Belgrade than anyone else and the Russian public must be shown that the West sees Russia as having an essential role to play. Negotiations in a vacuum will not succeed, however, as Mr Milosevic would have no sufficient incentive to surrender most of Kosovo. Only the threat of a Nato ground invasion would achieve the necessary concessions. Nato must not make such a threat unless it is serious and the Serbs know action would follow if necessary.

Such a strategy would combine realism with idealism. It would offer a real prospect of the Kosovans being able to return home. It would create stability in the region. It would help to prevent the West losing Russia to a xenophobic red-brown coalition. And it would enable Nato to achieve an honourable conclusion to the task it set itself.

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Bloody liberals

The Empire has struck back, with greater force and left-wing sermons

Simon Jenkins

Gladstone's cry echoed across Europe. He told the House of Commons in 1877: "A band of heroes such as the world has rarely seen stand on the rocks of Montenegro. They have sent you their petition, they have prayed for your help and protection . . . That burden of woe and shame, the greatest that exists on God's earth, is the one that we thought united Europe was about to remove." The Balkan minorities fascinated the Victorians. Defending them against attack challenged their faith and their manhood. Byron had championed Greece and Albania. Tennyson joined Gladstone's call to arms. Of the Balkans, he wrote in a rather plodding sonnet: "They kept their faith, their freedom, on the height/ Chaste, frugal, savage, arm'd by day and night."

Guardian editorials lack Tennyson's metre, but today's liberal imperialist revival is no less bold. Augusto Pinochet of Chile is seized from the authority of his own people for inquisition by Chile's former ruler, Spain. President Saddam Hussein is being bombed by Iraq's one-time overlord, Britain, like the regular thrashing of a Victorian schoolboy "for his own good". Post-colonial warlords are summoned from Africa to stand trial for "war crimes" in once-imperial European capitals. An air assault on Yugoslavia escalates towards all-out war, amid confusion and horror, to cheers from *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *The Observer*, and from the massed Labour benches in the House of Commons.

I carry no brief for General Pinochet nor for any of the global fraternity of murderous and repressive rulers. But yesterday's decision that he can be extradited to Spain leaves no doubt that Europeans have resumed a quasi-imperial locus in holding Latin American rulers to account for their actions in office. The British Home Office regard General Pinochet like Garcia de Loyola, the first Governor of Chile in the 16th century. He was considered answerable not to those over whom he ruled but to the Government in Madrid. The list of those vulnerable to this new moral suzerainty may be an unattractive bunch: Gaddafi of Libya, Saddam of Iraq, Karadzic of Bosnia, and Milosevic of Yugoslavia. But this is a club anyone can join. From South Africa to Burma, from Chechnya to Cuba, from Tibet to Congo, even to Northern Ireland, no sensible limit can now be set on man's right to judge another's inhumanity to man.

Just as the civil law has recourse to the criminal when things go awry, so world human rights law has recourse to the State. If Jack Straw's decision on General Pinochet stands, half the embassies in Europe, and all the summit conferences, will be deluged with affidavits, subpoenas, lawyers and arrest warrants. Governments will have to take up positions, for fear of seeming "partial to inhumanity". Those positions seem likely to embrace force. British troops in Bosnia are meant to be arresting suspects on behalf of The Hague War Crimes Tribunal. The mission statement of a British soldier now is not the defence of Britain or her interests abroad, but whatever crisis appeals to the Prime Minister of the day as having "moral purpose". (How moral purpose allows the bombing of cities but not risking ground troops is beyond me.)

The parallel of the new imperialism with its Victorian and Edwardian forebear is superficially close. The builders of the last British Empire carried a similar belief in the superiority of their values and in the duty of Europeans to impose them on a disorderly world. The generations that bred Brooke of Sarawak, Gordon of Khartoum and Milner's Cape Town "kindergarten" would have understood the incarceration in Europe of world rulers who misbehaved towards their peoples. As a form of imperial discipline, judicial inquiry was cheaper than gunboats. But they would also have applauded Mr Blair's Balkan adventure. Gladstone would have been ecstatic. As a former governor of Corfu, he would have cheered Lord Hurd of Westwell's demand for a Kosovan "protectorate", presumably to be swiftly extended from Bosnia to embrace Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro.

What distinguishes the modern liberals from the Victorians is their reckless recourse to force, especially air power. It is as if, released from the enforced pacifism of the Cold War, they yearn to unleash their pent-up aggression against the sins of the world. The Victorians were at least confused over the relationship of missionary morality to the use of new weaponry. In her study of the psychology of Empire *(Empire and the English Character)*, Kathryn Tidrick tells how its administrators were taught that force indicated personal inadequacy. Moral suasion and personal leadership were both the means to domination and its justification. "Not only did they have moral reservations about physical coercion," she writes, "but they believed that they were blessed with attributes of character which enabled them to prevail without it." The legend of General Gordon partly depended on his refusing to carry arms. The fact that Brooke of Sarawak killed a thousand Borneo tribesmen at the battle of Batang Maru, with no British losses, or General Gordon killed 4,000 Chinese at Quinsan, losing just two men, was merely the "collateral damage" of imperialism.

In today's Baghdad and Belgrade, the "moral suasion" of European diplomacy was as ineffective as the deterrence value of aerial bombardment. But rather than admit failure — difficult in a matter of "values not interests" — the British Cabinet felt obliged to administer the retributive punishment of a bombing campaign. It is true that in Kosovo, Nato seems intent on setting up a classic colony, as has the United Nations in Bosnia. During the Rwandan civil war, Africa's Kosovo, various European armies came close to intervening when, at the last minute, the Tutsi irregulars cleansed the relevant areas for them. They thus relieved Europe of what would by now be an appalling immersion in the Congo morass. This narrow escape has deflected even the present British Cabinet from trying to police Africa's many other civil wars. White-on-white inhumanity presents a more immediate threat to "values" than black-on-black.

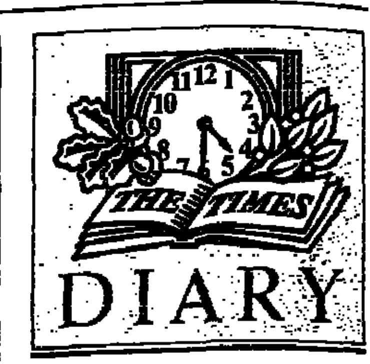
The liberal ideals to which I was educated were a reaction against the old paternalism of Empire. They were rooted in anti-colonialism, in the right of self-determination and in tolerating the wilder political antics of post-imperial states. Such liberalism led many on the British Left to ignore the new dictators in Africa and to oppose Suez, the Bay of Pigs and American aid to Saigon against Hanoi. The essence of this (old) world order was a respect for the right of sovereign nations to chart their own path to heaven or hell. Hence the UN Charter's "hands-off" approach to the internal affairs of member states. Hence, where civil wars erupted, the studiously non-violent ideology of non-government aid and the Red Cross.

This liberalism redefined that of the old Empire as that of guidance by example, co-operation and aid. This was suited to the Cold War and avoided the risk that military intervention might run out of control. Non-intervention was to be overruled only where the sanctity of borders and the stability of regions was blatantly breached, as in the Falklands and Kuwait. The norm was well demonstrated in Ethiopia in 1984-86, a humanitarian disaster resulting from a civil war worse than anything in Yugoslavia. Europe responded with massive, mostly private-sector aid. Hundreds of thousands of lives were saved. The Ethiopian intervention was private, non-violent and productive.

This liberalism appears to be dead. Involvement in overseas conflicts has been nationalised, seized by lawyers, politicians and soldiers marching under the banner of "values not interests". Kosovo is their latest Mecca.

The implications are awesome. The last British Empire was supposedly acquired in a fit of absent-mindedness. The next one *is* being acquired in a fit of morality. I do not know which is worse.

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Artistic booty

BRIAN SEWELL has suffered the curse of new homebuyers and been burgled. But as one of the country's most cherished art critics, the stolen possessions are somewhat grand. Sewell (below right) was divested of lifesize marble busts of John Locke (left) and Emperor Augustus and one in bronze of "an early 20th-century Italian politician whose name I have forgotten".

After living in Kensington for three decades, the critic moved to Wimbledon six weeks ago. His *objets d'art*, which were uninsured, disappeared from his garden last Friday: "I am a victim of my own delusions of grandeur, I am afraid. I had demolished the garden gates to make way for the removal pantechnicons, making it perfectly easy to drive a lorry in and out."



ETON has made it easier for the Prince of Wales to telephone his sons. The school has changed its rules after pressure from parents to allow older pupils to switch their mobiles on outside classes.

■ WHY has one of Tony Blair's few experts on Slobodan Milosevic delayed publication of his insight into the Serb leader? Before taking over as the British Ambassador in Ireland this year, Ivor Roberts had served HMG's interests in Belgrade and became close to the President.

On his return to Britain, the Foreign Office high-flyer, who is involved in the Good Friday talks, spent a year at St Antony's College, Oxford, where he wrote a pamphlet on Milosevic. He wished to turn his words into a book, but now I hear his plans have been delayed.

Could this have something to do with allegations of pro-Serb sympathies made by members of Belgrade's opposition, who called him Roberts the Red? The BBC's *The Ambassador*, which again sees Pauline Collins playing our envoy in Dublin from this weekend, was never so interesting.

ON THE hustings in Leeds, Michael Portillo was asked to predict what gains the local Tories might make in next month's local elections: "I don't want to put a figure on it as I am now a private citizen — and people will ask what do I know about these things?"



■ THE Tory wives' club has been raided by the police. The Andrew Robson Bridge Club, whose patrons include Judith Mellor, Sandra Howard and Diana Rigg (below), had just moved to new premises in West London when local officers dropped by earlier this week to check on reports of an illegal gambling den.

But once they had popped their head into the club, which inspired scenes in *Martha Meet Frank, Daniel and Laurence*, the police were quickly assured by Andrew Robson that the tip-off was completely spurious.

U AND non-u bends. At The Spectator *party, I noticed that the bathroom door had been defaced. What had begun as "toilet" was replaced with "lavatory", then "loo" and finally "bog". There was less lavatorial humour at Amanda Platell's party to mark her exit from the Editor's seat at the* Sunday Express. *After being given some flowers, William Hague's new aide asked: "If I throw this over my shoulder, will the person who catches it be the next one to get the sack?"*

■ AT THE unveiling of his Internet booking service, Bob Geldof, the former Boomtown Rat, welcomed his guests in his unique style: "It shows how sad you all are, coming to the launch of something as boring as an Internet site."

EDWARD WELSH

'From Agincourt to Alamein, the battle is won by the infantry. The cavalry are merely an ornament'

Philip Howard

Bombs cannot win a war on their own. They never have and they never will. There is a persuasive argument that Bomber Command's "strategic" bombing lengthened the last war by driving German resistance into backs-to-the-rubble desperation. "Immaculate coercion" is always a fantasy strategy. War means blood and damage. And in the end, the PBI (Poor Bloody Infantry) are sent in to hold the ground that the bombers have rendered untenable.

Aircraft and rockets have replaced the cavalry as the pampered jades of the battlefield. Cavalrymen used to wear the impossibly tight cherry-picking trousers and absurd plumes and silver spurs with flowerpots on their heads. The girls were supposed to fancy them, though the cavalry traditionally fancied nobody but themselves and their own sex. Today pilots wear the space-age uniforms and give the celebrity interviews. Small boys used to fantasise about leading the charge. Today video games persuade them that it is possible to zap hostiles without getting hurt themselves.

Over Easter the little boys were playing something called Killeak the Blood. In your Stealth bomber pilot's power suit you have to explore seven underground mazes defended by hostile robots. "There are seven SJ 107-compatible weapons, although you begin the mission with only one. Four of these use special ammunition. The others run off your suit's power supply. Hence they cease to function when your suit is down to auxiliary power." Little boys are brilliant at zapping and zooming controls. I have enough trouble mastering the peaceful computer that inspires only bloody thoughts, in order to write this. It is just as well that I have no ambitions to play computer games. The robots would win.

There was an interesting paper at the Classical Association's meeting in Liverpool about why Ancient Athenians wanted to sign on for the cavalry. I should have guessed for social prestige or in order to belong to the Cavalry Club. Not so. It was simpler than that. To sit on a horse reduced one's chance of being killed on the battlefield by a factor of at least ten. Of course, it increased one's chance of being kicked, bucked, bitten or farted to death. But it was still the strategy for immaculate coercion.

The cavalry have always seen themselves as the flower of the battlefield. But they have seldom won a battle. The cavalry actions in which the British take most pride were catastrophic defeats such as the charges of the Light and Heavy Brigades at Balaclava. The Scots Greys got their picture painted for their charge at Waterloo. But it was the Jocks they gave a lift to on their stirrups who had to do the dirty work when the charging had to stop.

It was a cavalry officer with the brains of his mount who declared: "It must be accepted that the rifle, effective as it is, cannot replace the effect produced by the speed of the horse, the magnetism of the charge, and the terror of cold steel." He was Field Marshal Earl Haig. And a fat lot of good his theory from behind the lines did for the footmen with trench feet at the Somme.

Boadicea had a temporary success with her horses. Ancient British ladies and gentlemen used chariots to travel to battle and manoeuvre on the battlefield. But they dismounted before they fought. Have you ever tried to aim a spear from a chariot being driven over rough ground? The English in particular have always taken a pride in their cavalry. Or at any rate, the horse-owning squirish classes have. The saddle was the seat of prestige on the hunting field and supposed to be a symbol of the best of British.

But they never delivered on the battlefield. King Robert I of Scotland said of the English Army trotting into sight over the peat bogs: "They glory in their warhorses and equipment. For us the name of the Lord must be our hope of victory in battle." That was cited in John of Fordun's *Chronica Gentis Scotorum*, after Bannockburn. From Agincourt to Alamein, the battle is won by infantry. The cavalry are merely an ornament.

Some English battles may have been influenced by men on horses. But they were mostly in the Civil War, when the boneheads bounced on both sides. Great cavalry commanders, from Genghis Khan to Attila the Hun, are not inspiring examples. Pizarro and his Conquistadores conquered the Incas with cavalry, they say. Bernal Diaz del Castillo in *The Conquest of New Spain*, 1568, explained: "The Indians thought the horse and rider were one creature, for they had never seen them before." If you are serious about war, forget the horsemen and the pilots. Send for the Black Watch.



DEFENDER OF BRITAIN

The Chancellor leads the fight for the Union

The writing is, allegedly, on Hadrian's Wall. The Union, which has served its constituent nations so well, is presumed to be unravelling. Scottish nationalism has already secured a devolved parliament and will shortly establish a powerful bridgehead within it. English nationalism is finding an increasingly articulate voice. The distance of Northern Irish politics from Westminster is being confirmed by the development of a new form of devolution. And the utility of all existing nation states is called into question by the new supranational order.

Yet those who forecast the end of Britain are guilty of letting separatist wishes be father to muddled thoughts. The case for Britishness is stronger than many allow, both in logic and the sentiments of all these islands' inhabitants. But no case is so strong that it does not need advocates, and no sentiment so durable that it does not require refurbishment. That is why Gordon Brown's speech on the New Britain yesterday was both welcome and wise.

The Chancellor is both chief executive and chief ideologist of this Government. He appreciates that the nation state has to adjust to the forces we have come to call "globalisation", international finance, the speed of technology, and the power of supranational institutions such as Nato, the WTO and the EU. The Chancellor, however, recognises that it has been through engagement with change, and involvement in the world, that the British genius has been defined. A rich trading past, a leading role in maintaining stability abroad and a national life increasingly enriched by different cultural influences have helped shape the character we recognise as British.

In that context the Chancellor is both historically and politically right to argue that the "the progressive response to global change is not to look inwards, to cut ourselves off, or in the face of profound change to retreat into factionalism". Mr Brown prefers to empower the citizen in a world which seems to rob him of roots by creating new rights and institutions in a modern British settlement. There may be concerns that some of his constitutional answers are still half-formed, but the sincerity of Mr Brown's attempts to reinforce British traditions is not in doubt.

Mr Brown's progressive response is also potentially popular. The Chancellor quoted polling evidence to suggest that Scots, Welsh and English all broadly agree that the British derive benefits from working together. It is a pity that the poll the Chancellor quoted did *not* give the British people of Ulster the chance to assent, as they would have, to that sentiment. But the popularity of Britain is an eloquent reproof to those who wish to accelerate, separatist trends. The Chancellor could not admit that there are those in his own party who have encouraged separatism, partly by caricaturing Tory Unionism and occasionally by sharing a platform with nationalists. But the force of his new unionism is more than sufficient amends for brothers who have not kept the solidarity principle.

The Chancellor, as a godfather to devolution, recognises that it has provided a space which separatists will seek to exploit. It also creates a temptation for the unscrupulous to stoke perceived English resentments. Those who encourage the English to "take back" the money, or political representation, which Scotland and Wales enjoy risk the loss of something far more precious than subventions. England loses something of its character, the sense of fair play which the Chancellor identifies at its core, if it is driven in on itself. England has a better friend in Mr Brown than those who wrap themselves in the flag of St George. The Union now has a defender equal to the fight.

SWORD AND PEN

Truth is the only way to grapple with Serb falsehoods

The more Nato says about Wednesday's bombing of Kosovan Albanian refugees, the more confusing the picture becomes. No two accounts of this incident tally; nothing seems certain except that many civilians are dead, that a Nato error almost certainly caused some, at least, of these deaths and that the Pentagon's inordinately clumsy handling of the news when it first broke must have left Slobodan Milosevic weeping tears of joy.

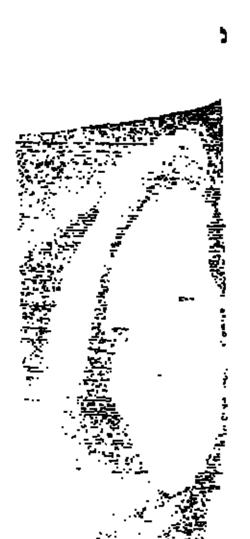
Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, may have genuinely believed that Nato aircraft were not responsible. But he could not have been certain. The pilots in action over Kosovo that day had not yet been debriefed. He did the credibility of the Alliance nothing but harm by alleging that Serb forces had done the killing themselves to embarrass Nato. Since he had no evidence of that either, this disastrously gave the impression that Nato might stoop to the black propaganda at which the Milosevic regime excels. When horrendous photographs of mangled corpses were being flashed round the world, the only sensible response would have been to promise a speedy Nato investigation.

Some of those facts remain elusive. Yesterday Jamie Shea, the spokesman for Nato's Secretary-General, admitted, with "deep regrets", that a Nato aircraft had hit a civilian vehicle on the road between the Kosovan towns of Prizren and Djagovica, in a convoy which "may" also have contained Serb police or military vehicles. But Nato's military spokesman, General Giuseppe Marani, then said that the strike was against a three-vehicle convoy of green vehicles, not the red tractors shown to have been hit, and that it was on a different road, northwest of Djakovica. Other Nato sources suggested that there were indeed two convoys, on the same road, and that Nato had hit the wrong one. This all contrasts uncomfortably with the speed with which Nato appears able to provide full reports, with cockpit videos, on its successful missions. Belgrade's version does not tally, either, with what is known. Its assertion that these were civilians being escorted "home" is hardly compatible with statements by survivors, or with detailed reports from Nato pilots that the whole area was studded with villages that had just been set ablaze.

But this makes it all the more imperative that Nato swiftly comes up with a coherent account. Otherwise, this single tragic incident could impair trust in the veracity of its information. That would be collateral damage of huge consequence.

Democracies at war must be seen to treasure truth. That must include a rigorous respect among politicians for the independence of the media, even when its reporting is not to their liking. In Belgrade, Western reporters are to some extent working within a hostile propaganda machine. They are operating under the close surveillance of a regime that, with the assassination of the stalwart Serb editor Slavko Curuvija, has just given fresh proof of its readiness to kill Serbia's own messengers. When Serb civilians are interviewed for television, they know that their words are monitored by the secret police; Serb bomb reports will be chosen for their propaganda value. All film from Belgrade therefore requires the health warning that the broadcasters give it.

That in no way excuses Downing Street's whispering campaign against the BBC's John Simpson and other British journalists reporting from Serbia, whom it accuses of parroting Serb propaganda. What they report is a matter for them and their editors, who may well judge that, however untrue, it is right to record what the Milosevic regime is saying. Politicians never appear weaker than when they betray nervousness about enemy propaganda. Snide attempts at news management can look like covert censorship. On this front, and this alone, the Prime Minister should order an immediate ceasefire.



PRONE MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

The Deputy Prime Minister needs to sharpen up his act

John Prescott's matinee performance descended into black comedy on Wednesday afternoon. The Deputy Prime Minister's attempt at answering Prime Minister's Questions left many wondering how he manages to keep the role of Tony Blair's understudy. Mr Prescott's parliamentary crime goes beyond his customary cruelty to syntax. *Prime Minister's Question Time* is the legislature's opportunity to hold the executive to account. Mr Prescott's debacle was not merely contemptuous of that process, but exposed a startling ignorance at the heart of Government.

In the Commons cockpit, calling General Mladic "Motherditch" would be a forgivable offence in peacetime, let alone war. Yet the MP for Hull East did not find only words difficult. A question about the European withholding tax baffled the Deputy Prime Minister, whose answer referred to the poll tax. A query about class sizes provoked a spurious response. When challenged by the interrogator, Mr Prescott petulantly snapped: "That is the answer he is going to get." As the agony neared its end, Mr Prescott observed that "the voice" of the *Commons* should be "good language, sane language and common sense". Sadly, he displayed none of them.

Previous performers might pity Mr Prescott's plight. Every past Prime Minister has admitted nervousness before this gruelling parliamentary inquisition, some even needing a stiff drink. Yet Prime Ministers — and Mr Prescott — are briefed by a platoon of advisers, who spend hours preparing answers to awkward questions. Aided by these crack civil servants, Richard Crossman wrote how the man who "is running the executive has to be there at the dispatch box, and has to fight the contender for power". On Wednesday Mr Prescott, an ex-boxer, fought himself.

Little evidence now remains of the Deputy Prime Minister's rout. The *Hansard* reporters deciphered his garbled words and recorded his humiliation as the Speaker calling "Order". Benjamin Disraeli survived a similar ordeal during his maiden speech, ending it with the flourish "I will sit down now, but the time will come when you will hear me". The next time Mr Prescott stands up at the dispatch box, deputising for the Prime Minister, he must be sure he is ready to be heard.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The 'dangerous' policies of SNP

From Mr Drummond Hunter

Sir, It is time to call a halt to the Scottish National Party's blatant misuse of the phrase "independence for Scotland".

Scotland has never been anything other than an independent nation. Over the last 300 years it has chosen to work in partnership with England. Shared sovereignty of this kind — and, perhaps, in particular, conditionally shared sovereignty, is something that the nationalists cannot conceive of. For them independence means a suicidal separatism.

It is crucially important that the Scottish electorate is fully aware that the current election is a battle between an independent Scotland which recognises that building bridges is the way forward and which aims to strengthen and renew its partnership with England (a partnership which has given the world both law and democracy) and an independent Scotland which sees its future in separatism, ie, in working with (or against) England across an international frontier.

It was always a monumental gaffe to effect the current constitutional revolution under the rubric of "devolution". As Earl Russell pointed out in *The Scotsman* (July 19, 1996), devolution amounts to the "annexation of Scotland by England", and is, accordingly, an unforgivable constitutional solecism.

What is now afoot in the real world, inevitably and perfectly properly, is the renegotiation of the 1707 Act of Union.

Yours etc,
DRUMMOND HUNTER,
17 Warriston Crescent,
Edinburgh EH3 5LB.
April 13.

From Mr James W. Finlay

Sir, It is the perversity of politics that while 75 per cent of the UK citizens living in Scotland do not wish to see the break-up of the UK, their membership of three different Unionist parties, competing for their votes, could result in victory for the SNP — and all its dangerous policies.

Political parties are composed of politically ambitious members who could be reluctant to see their votes being invested long-term in tactical voting. It could be that the national overall party support would not be distorted much if the strongest challenger to the SNP received the overwhelming support of the anti-nationalists.

But unless the overriding objective of the voter is to destroy the nationalists, once and for all, we could dreamwalk into disaster. The patriotic voter must put country before party with the sole objective of saving the Union by tactical voting.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES W. FINLAY,
Rainton, Gatehouse of Fleet,
Castle Douglas DG7 2DR.
April 13.

Refugee tragedy

From Brigadier Johnny Rickett

Sir, Having experienced a "Blue on Blue" in the Falklands war, the parlance for bombing or shooting your own side, it saddens me dreadfully that Nato HQ has now to spend countless hours investigating "a mistake" (reports, April 15).

Politicians and everyone else must realise that war is a horrible thing, and once unleashed, mistakes inevitably happen. In war nothing is certain and the lesson for those of faint hearts is to stand firm through unpleasantness as redemption will follow.

Yours sincerely,
JOHNNY RICKETT.
Union Jack Club,
Sandell Street, SE1 8UJ.
April 15.

From Mr N. F. Maton

Sir, Your front-page photograph this morning of an injured woman lying amid rubble goes beyond the boundaries of photographic journalism.

We honour the dignity of victims of road accidents and crime. Why should the victims of war be any different?

Yours faithfully,
N. F. MATON,
253 Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SJ.
April 15.

From Mr David Green

Sir, Nations declare war. Alliances mostly exist for mutual defence.

Humanitarian interests apart, Nato is seeking to protect itself against invasion by the best part of a million refugees forcibly and deliberately driven from their homeland by their own Government. Its object is to see those refugees safely back in that homeland.

Attack is sometimes the best means of defence. Against Milosevic's Serbia it is now the only available means. But those such as the Reverend Giles Hunt (letter, April 15) who seek legal niceties in what are only the latest aspects of this tragedy should first remember how it started.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest SA62 5EJ.
April 15.

Legal rights for the mentally ill

From the Chief Executive of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and others

Sir, The Government has ordered a review of the Mental Health Act. In their public statements, ministers have emphasised the concern that a small number of people with severe mental illness may stop taking medication and suffer relapse. They have proposed powers of compulsory treatment in the community as a response.

Those who use mental health services, their families, and professionals in the front line all know that this is not the main problem with the current system.

The real failing is that too often people cannot get decent care and treatment, nor help in a crisis, which could prevent the need for compulsion in the first place. For too many people the experience of severe mental illness is to seek help with increasing desperation, to be turned away time and again, until finally a crisis is reached which demands compulsory intervention, often in traumatic circumstances, and frequently with police involvement.

It is a scandal that such a situation has been tolerated for so long.

Despite several years when mental health has been top of the stated priorities of the NHS, and after a series of action plans by successive governments, these problems remain.

The solution is to place the power in the hands of those who need it most, by giving people with severe mental illness and their carers legal rights to good standards of care and treatment.

The opportunity to influence mental health law comes up only once in a generation. We call for that opportunity to be taken. Rights to care and treatment should form the foundations of the new Act.

Yours sincerely,
CLIFF PRIOR,
Chief Executive,
National Schizophrenia Fellowship,
KAREN CAMPBELL,
Chief Executive,
Manic Depression Fellowship,
GIL HITCHON,
Chief Executive, MACA (Mental After Care Association),
National Schizophrenia Fellowship,
30 Tabernacle Street, EC2A 4DD.
April 13.

Pinochet extradition

From the Director of Public Prosecutions

Sir, Extradition arrangements between the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom are governed by the European Convention on Extradition.

Spain is represented by the Crown Prosecution Service in extradition proceedings in our domestic courts, as are other countries, in accordance with longstanding, reciprocal arrangements. Lord Justice Glidewell described the nature of the CPS's role in 1994 when he emphasised that, in relation to extradition proceedings, the Director of Public Prosecutions "is not to be regarded as the prosecutor, but as a lawyer acting on behalf of a foreign client".

The reference in your leading article today, "Straw's list", to "Mr Straw's own Crown Prosecution Service" is fundamentally misleading, as is the suggestion that the role of the CPS demonstrates that "the British Government is . . . actually pursuing the General on its own account".

Both I and the CPS are entirely independent of the Home Secretary. The role of the CPS in this matter has been throughout to act on behalf of Spain. This has inevitably included advising Spain about the implications of the House of Lords ruling on March 24, 1999.

A number of parties made representations to the Home Secretary. The additional material submitted for his consideration by the CPS was submitted on behalf of Spain. That is the only proper basis on which the material could have been submitted by the CPS.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CALVERT-SMITH,
Director of Public Prosecutions,
Crown Prosecution Service,
50 Ludgate Hill, EC4M 7EX.
April 15.

Children and alcohol

From the Director of The Portman Group

Sir, There will be an excellent opportunity in the House of Commons on Friday, April 16 for some joined-up thinking to be translated into legislation.

I hope that Members of Parliament will break with tradition and delay their weekend return to their constituencies so that they can support the second reading of Christine McCafferty's Licensing (Young Persons) Bill.

The Bill is designed to curb undesirable access to alcohol by children by closing a legal loophole so that employees in licensed premises — not just the licensee — would break the law if they served alcohol to children; creating a new offence of "proxy purchase", where someone over 18 buys alcohol on behalf of a child (this is already an offence in Scotland); and permitting the police and trading standards officers to conduct "test purchases" where retailers are suspected of selling alcohol to children.

Unusually for a Private Member's Bill at this early stage, this Bill has attracted backing from Members on all sides of the House, as well as a formidable consensus of support from the police, local authorities, magistrates and the drinks industry.

I hope there will be enough MPs who realise that, on this Friday at least, staying in the House will be the best way they can represent their constituents' interest.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN COUSSINS,
Director,
The Portman Group,
2d Wimpole Street, W1M 7AA.
April 14.

Millennium avarice

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, I see that we are to be bugged by millennium avarice as much as by computer failure (report, "Computer staff to top new year pay bonanza", April 12).

It seems that New Year's Eve 1999 — not, as a few of us know, the last day of the millennium — is to be marked by people demanding huge sums of money to work instead of getting plastered.

Is there no organisation taking the names of those who will jump at the chance of avoiding all mention of the pseudo-celebration by either volunteering to help in hospitals and other needy institutions or by finding a country retreat pledged to offer no mention of the event?

Failing that, I shall have to retire to a locked, barred and soundproofed room for relief from the inevitable misplaced hype and hysteria to which the media — no doubt yourselves included — will submit us.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View, Bushey Heath,
Hertfordshire WD2 3QZ.
barry@booshie.demon.co.uk
April 12.

A lot of hot air

From Mr Richard Normington

Sir, "As you may already be aware, the centrepiece of this office's public information campaign for the Euro-elections is a full-size hot air balloon . . .", says a letter circulated by the European Parliament's British branch. Hot air? European Parliament? Someone lacks an irony chip in their data bank.

The balloon is supposed to encourage people to vote but the office insists "Our presence, of course . . . will be strictly non-partisan". This can't be right. Considering the gusts of hot air coming from the Labour majority in Strasbourg — who failed to purge the Euro Commission last year when all the facts were known — there can be no doubt that the balloon represents them almost perfectly. Unless, of course, the balloon's support vehicles will be carrying red tape to tether it on landing.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD NORMINGTON
(Conservative Prospective
European Parliamentary Candidate,
West Midlands),
10 Greenfield Crescent,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3AU.
April 15.

A proper pride

From Mr Norman Jones

Sir, I would never have dreamt of questioning my late father-in-law's patriotism [letters, April 10 and 15]: he always marked *St George's Day* by planting out his tomatoes.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN JONES,
The Ridgeway,
Ibstone Road, Stokenchurch,
Buckinghamshire HP14 2XR.
April 11.

Age of consent

From Mr George Barbour

Sir, There is only one way to confront unjust laws (report, "Peers block gay sex at 16 — again", later editions, April 14; letters, April 6, 10 and 13), and that is by civil disobedience.

I would, therefore, call on all 16 and 17-year-old gay men openly to declare their sexual relationships, in writing, to the police and challenge them to act.

Such a mass protest could be organised by a responsible pressure group such as Stonewall, and any resultant prosecutions should be taken to the European Court of Human Rights, in whose charter equality of the sexes is enshrined.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE BARBOUR,
55 Onslow Square, SW7 3LR.
April 14.

Business letters, page 31

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Price of shopping at the superstores

From Mr Andrew Sadler

Sir, Your headline today asks: "Are superstores cheating you?"

In the 12 months of 1998 my family of two adults and two children spent £4,330.13 on supermarket items, of which £3,252.66 was at one of the "big four".

Following a television programme last autumn on pricing, I started to buy potatoes from a farm shop and switched my main expenditure to a discount store (Lidl). We still have to go to one of the major chains for some items.

For the three months January to March our savings have been 34 per cent, 45 per cent and 53 per cent respectively. From this, our projected saving for the year 1999 is £1,909.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW SADLER,
21 Chestnut Street, Lincoln LN1 3HB.
asadler@globalnet.co.uk
April 9.

Making a packet

From Mrs Eira Harris

Sir, I see that the country's richest businessman makes packaging for the food industry ("Britain's top 10", April 12). Am I right to believe that many of the country's poorest businessmen produce the food that's placed inside this packaging?

Yours faithfully,
EIRA HARRIS,
Ffosyficer Farm, Abercych,
Boncath, Pembrokeshire SA37 OEU.
April 14.

Business and the Bard

From Miss C. J. V. Picton Phillipps

Sir, It is true that Shakespeare can provide lessons on how to survive in business (Alan Hamilton's report, April 7).

As a client of a small firm of personal investment managers based in East Lothian, I regularly receive articles written by Victor Wood, one of its directors, on a variety of subjects not necessarily connected with investment. Each article is headed by a quotation from the works of Shakespeare.

I am told that the quotation is chosen (with the aid of a concordance) *after* the completion of the manuscript, and that in the ten years over which the articles have been written a brief period of research has never failed to yield a passage which hits the nail on the head precisely.

"It is like a barber's chair that fits all buttocks" (*All's Well that Ends Well*, II, ii).

I am, etc,
C. J. V. PICTON PHILLIPPS,
4 Nicolson Square,
Edinburgh EH8 9BH.
April 8.

Marbles in the gutter

From Mr John R. Hart

Sir, I was delighted to see the term "tor" used for a marble (letters, March 27 and April 8) as I had not come across it since my boyhood in British India. We also called them "alleys".

Our style was to crouch with thumb on the ground and the marble loaded against the tip of the middle finger. This finger was then bent back, like a tiny mangonel, and the tor sent twanging away at its target.

Games varied. One involved a circle with marbles in it. Each lad tried in turn to knock them out to win. If his tor stayed in the circle he forfeited it. Another game involved a hole, or dub, usually set against a slope, so that mis-shots might roll back in and be lost. Winning meant knocking in the other lads' marbles (or, sometimes, walnuts).

Girls never played.

I am, Sir, in reminiscent mood.
Very truly yours,
JOHN HART,
11 Mountview, Mill Hill, NW7 3HT.
April 9.

From Mr J. M. Gelsthorpe

Sir, Mr Edward Wilcock (letter, March 27) is right about the need for an uneven surface to play marbles.

Ten years ago, at Leigham Junior School in north Plymouth, the significantly named "pitsies" was played constantly, despite darkness and the caretaker.

When the playground was resurfaced the game vanished abruptly and finally.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. GELSTHORPE,
6 Willowby Park,
Yelverton, Devon PL20 6AN.
April 11.

High romance

From Mr Frederick O. Marsh

Sir, Who says that romance and chivalry are dead?

I have just heard of a pilot who proposed to his future wife in a glider, over the top of a loop. He lowered a wing, so that he was down on one knee.

Yours sincerely,
FREDERICK O. MARSH
(Vice-President,
The Royal Aero Club),
36 Edwardes Square, W8 6HH.
April 14.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 15: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Dinner Party this evening.

The following were invited: His Excellency the Ambassador of Spain and Señora de Aza, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Republic of Cameroon and Madame Libock, the Reverend Dr and Mrs Ivor Jones, the Baroness Blackstone, Sir Timothy and the Lady Mary Colman, Sir Richard and Lady Wilson, Sir Michael Bishop, Mr Trevor Nunn and Miss Imogen Stubbs, Mr and Mrs William Packer, Mr Stewart Purvis, the Reverend Canon and Mrs John Ovenden and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Jonathan Bourne-May.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 15: The Prince of Wales today visited Great Manchester where he was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

His Royal Highness, as Patron of the Manchester Grammar School Foundation Bursary Appeal, this morning visited the school at Fallowfield, where he met staff and students.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Ducie High School, Moss Side, where he met staff and pupils and, as President of Business in the Community, attended a discussion on business mentoring in schools.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, afterwards visited Castle Howard and met present and future supporters of the Trust.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, this morning attended their Spring Meeting at the University of York, Heslington, North Yorkshire and was received by Colonel E.C. York (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire).

Her Royal Highness, this afternoon opened The Rutland Family Support Centre at The Parks School, Barleythorpe Road, Oakham, Rutland and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland (Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy).

The Princess Royal, later opened Voluntary Action Rutland's Volunteer Centre at Barleythorpe Road, Oakham, Rutland.

Her Royal Highness then presented a traditional horseshoe, requested of Peers of the Realm, to the Lord of the Manor at Oakham Castle, Oakham, Rutland.

The Princess Royal, Patron, The Development Trust (for the Mentally Handicapped), this evening attended a Dinner at 11 Hill Street, Westminster, London W1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 15: The Duke of Gloucester this morning departed from Warsaw for London.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon attended a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Centenary of The League of St Bartholomew's Nurses in the Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great and afterwards attended a Reception in the Great Hall, West Smithfield, London EC1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 15: The Duke of Kent, this morning visited the new Royal Opera House.

His Royal Highness, President, The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, this evening attended the Annual Dinner at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 15: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended the 20th Reunion Dinner of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association at the Headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, Armoury House, City Road, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will undertake engagements in West Yorkshire.

The Princess Royal will visit St Magnus Cathedral, Broad Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, at 11.25; will open the Pickaquoy Centre at noon; and as president, Riding for the Disabled Association, will visit the Orkney branch at the rugby football club, at 3.05.

Princess Alexandra, Vice-Patron, Young Women's Christian Association, will open the new centre in Restalrig Road South, Lochend, Edinburgh, at 1.00; as patron, Home-Start, will visit the Clackmannanshire Scheme, 6 Marshill, Alloa, at 3.00; and as deputy president, will visit the British Red Cross Shop at 17 Maple Court, Shillinghill, Alloa, at 4.00.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: www.royal.gov.uk

Birthdays today

The Queen of Denmark celebrates her 59th birthday today.

Lord Aberconway, 86; the Rev Keith Angus, former domestic chaplain to the Queen, 70; Miss Jenny Bacon, Director-General, Health and Safety Executive, 54; Miss Joan Bakewell, broadcaster, 66; Lord Camoys, 59; Sir Douglas Frank, QC, former Deputy Judge of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, 83; Miss Lynne Franks, public relations consultant, 51; Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman, ICI, 75; Mr Michael Hirst, former Chief Constable, Leicestershire, 61; Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP, 75; Mr Richard Lawrence, Editor, *Leading Notes*, 53; Professor Margaret Maden, educationist, 59; Miss Ruth Madoc, actress, 56; Mr P.I. Marshall, former chairman, Ocean Group, 72; Miss Conchita Martinez, tennis player, 27; Mr Spike Milligan, author and comedian, 81; Sir Geoffrey Owen, former Editor, *Financial Times*, 65; Mr Martin Owen, former chief executive, NatWest Markets, 53; Mr W. George Purdy, Chief Scout, 57; Judge Rant, QC, Judge Advocate General, 63; Sir John Robson, former diplomat, 69; Miss Constance Shacklock, opera singer, 86; Dr W.T. Stearn, botanist, 88; Professor Barbara Tizard, FBA, educationist, 73; Sir Peter Ustinov, actor, dramatist and film director, 78; Sir Frank Williams, managing director, Williams Grand Prix Engineering, 57.

Memorial service

Mr Charles Beattie, QC
A memorial service for Mr Charles Beattie, QC, was held yesterday in the Chapel of Lincoln's Inn. Canon William Norman, Preacher, officiated.

Sir John Balcombe, Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, read the lesson and Mr Robert Argles gave an address.

Service dinners

Westminster Dragoons
General Sir Jeremy Blacker, Honorary Colonel, The Royal Yeomanry and the Westminster Dragoons, presided at the annual dinner of the Westminster Dragoons Officers' dining club held last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

University of Wales Air Squadron
Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom, Patron of the University of Wales Air Squadron, and Professor Keith Robbins, Senior Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the University of Wales Air Squadron held last night at RAF St Athan. Squadron Leader Andy Cairncross, Officer Commanding, presided. Among others present were:

Air Vice-Marshal Eric Macey, the Chief Executive of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency, the Air Officer Wales, the Director of Support Management 1 Logistics Command, the Secretary General of the University of Wales, the Principal and Chief Executive of the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, and academic staff from Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Lampeter, Newport and Swansea.

SUZANNE HUBBARD

Humphrey Ocean, a portrait painter, using an eye-tracker at *The Painter's Eye* exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London. The exhibition, which opens today, shows how an artist looks at a model, how his hands reproduce what he sees and how he looks at the finished result. It uses models, paintings and equipment such as the eye-tracker, a special camera which reveals the precise focus of an artist's gaze

Dinners

All England Club
The Duke of Kent, President of the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, was in the chair at the annual dinner held last night at the Institute of Directors. Mr John Curry, chairman, Mr Jimmy Hill and Mr Sebastian Coe also spoke.

The Institution of Civil Engineers
Sir Alastair Morton, chairman of the shadow Strategic Rail Authority, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the Institution of Civil Engineers held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Roger Sainsbury, president, was in the chair and Mr Robbie Glen also spoke. The High Commissioner for Bangladesh and the High Commissioner for Pakistan were among the guests.

The Japan Society
The Annual Dinner of the Japan Society was held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Park Lane, on April 15. Sir Edward Heath, KG, MBE, MP, was the Guest of Honour. During the evening, the 1999 Japan Society Awards were presented to Lady Knill, Secretary of the Donnington Grove Society for Anglo-Japanese Cultural Exchange, and Mr James Howat, former Chairman of Morrison Bowmore, in recognition of their outstanding work in the field of Anglo-Japanese relations.

Gardeners' Company
Mr N.A. Chalmers, Master of the Gardeners' Company, assisted by Canon P. Delaney and Mr Vivian Robinson, QC, wardens, presided at the spring court dinner held last night at Plaisterers' Hall.

During the dinner the Master presented the Gardeners' Company prizes to students from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, Capel Manor College, the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley and Wye College. Mr Adrian Barnes, Remembrancer of the City of London, and Mr Edward Wright also spoke.

Chester Business Club
Sir Ludovic Kennedy was the guest of honour and principal speaker at a dinner of the Chester Business Club held last night at the Mollington Banastre Hotel, Chester. Mr Martin Seed, club chairman, presided. Mrs Sarah Samuels and Mr Bob Clough-Parker, club secretary, also spoke.

Durham Castle Society
Former students of University College, Durham attended the 53rd annual reunion dinner of the Durham Castle Society in the Great Hall of Durham Castle on Saturday, March 27, 1999. The new Master, Professor Maurice E. Tucker, presided, and the toast to the college was proposed by Mr Alex J. Nelson.

School news

Dean Close School
Trinity Term has begun. Bradley Mears is Captain of Cricket and Katrina Blampied is Captain of Girls' Tennis. The U14 Boys XI will play in the RAF Careers Hockey Youth Cup National Final at Milton Keynes on April 25. At Prize-Giving on May 29 the Guest of Honour will be Mr Frank Field, MP, and Dr John Lennox will preach at the Service of Commemoration of Benefactors. In the Bacon Theatre *Arcadia* will be presented on May 27 and 28 and *Music for a Summer Evening* on June 12. Term ends on July 2, with the OD Gaudy on July 3.

Queenswood School
The Summer Term at Queenswood begins on Sunday, April 18, with Beth Atterwill as Head Girl and Susannah Groves as Deputy Head Girl. Confirmation will be on Saturday, May 8, at 10.45am, the service being conducted by the Bishop of St Albans and the Rev G. Rogers. The Queenswood Ball will be held on Saturday, June 26; further details are available from the school. Speech Day is on Saturday, July 3. Full details of this term's music programme can be obtained from the Music Department.

Elmslie Girls' School
The opening of the Oakdene Science and Rainbow ICT Suites by Sir David Harrison, CBE, FEng, Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, will take place today. Events this term include: the Old Girls' Reunion Lunch, May 8, and a Service to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Chapel's consecration with the Bishop of Knaresborough, the Right Rev Frank Weston, May 28. (Details from School 01253 763775).

The Godolphin and Latymer School
Former members of the school community - parents, staff and girls are invited to join the newly formed Friends of G&L. There will be a Launch Party in June. Please contact the school on 0181 741 1936.

Ibstock Place School
Ibstock Place School is holding a celebration lunch today to receive the 'Investor in People' Award from Mr Ian Parkes, Chairman of AZTEC. The summer term starts on Monday, April 19. Charlie Barr and Sarah Edwards are Heads of School. Speech Day takes place on Thursday, July 1, 1999, when the Guest Speaker will be Mr R.M.J. Lyne, UK Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva.

Church news

The Rev Stefanie Hodges, Assistant Curate, Croydon Christ Church (Southwark): to be Assistant Curate, Sutton St Nicholas (same diocese).

The Rev Brian Hyder-Smith, Curate, Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates (Ely): has been appointed Team Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Alan Isaacson, Curate, Kimberworth St Thomas (Sheffield): to be Team Vicar, Brinsworth w Catcliffe and St Mary w Treeton (same diocese).

The Rev Rosalind Lane, Assistant Curate Huddersfield St Peter and All Saints and susbstitute Chaplain, HMP New Hall (Wakefield): to be Assistant Chaplain, HMP Doncaster (Sheffield).

The Rev Alan Middleton, Vicar, Upper Norwood All Saints (Southwark): to be Team Rector, Warlingham, continuing as Croydon Archdeaconry Ecumenical Adviser (same diocese).

The Rev David Moore, Vicar, Ham St Andrew (Southwark): to be Priest-in-Charge, Rothbury (Newcastle).

The Rev Margaret Moore, Team Vicar, Great Baddow with special responsibility for St Paul (Chelmsford): to be Priest-in-Charge, Woodham Mortimer w Hazeleigh and Woodham Walter (same diocese).

The Rev David Morphy, Deputy Headmaster, Stourport High School, and Honorary Curate, Ribbesford w Bewdley and Dowles (Worcester): to be Diocesan Director of Education (same diocese).

The Rev Kenneth Reeves, permission to officiate (Norwich): to be part-time Priest-in-Charge, Lakenham St Mark w Trowse (same diocese).

The Rev John Richardson, Chaplain, University of East London and Honorary Curate, Stratford St John and Christ Church and St James (Chelmsford) has been appointed full time stipendiary curate of the same benefice.

The Rev Janice Scott, Curate, Eaton (Norwich): to be Priest-in-Charge, Pulham Market Pulham St Mary, and Starston, Dickleburgh w Langmere and Shimpling, Thelveton w Frenze and Rushall (same diocese).

The Rev Maurice Slattery, NSM Niton St Lawrence and Whitwell (Portsmouth): has been appointed Honorary Curate, Selsdon St John with St Francis (with special responsibility for Selsdon St Francis) (Southwark).

Receptions

The League of St Bartholomew's Nurses
The Duchess of Gloucester attended a reception held yesterday in the Great Hall at the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew after a Service of Thanksgiving in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of The League of St Bartholomew's Nurses. The Archbishop of Canterbury preached the sermon. Earlier a luncheon was held in the Old Library, Guildhall.

Lord Wise
Lord Wise entertained the Welsh Trust for the Prevention of Abuse at a reception held last night at the House of Lords. The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London was among the guests.

Meeting

Franco-British Society
Sir Michael Jay, HM Ambassador to France, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Franco-British Society held yesterday at the RAF Club. Lord Strabolgi, vice-president, was in the chair. Sir John Fretwell, chairman, also spoke.

Luncheons

HM Government
The Secretary of State for Defence was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Dr János Szabó, Hungarian Minister for Defence.

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London were the guests of honour at a luncheon given by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster at City Hall yesterday. Among others present were:

Mr Sheriff and Mrs Brian Harris, Air Vice-Marshal Michael J Dicken, Colonel D E A Tucker, Mgr George Stack, the Lord Mayor of Westminster Designate and the Chief Executive of the International Underwriting Association of London.

Society of Apothecaries

Professor Salvador Moncada, FRS, has been presented with the Society of Apothecaries of London Galen Medal.

Latest wills

Mr Edgar Hugh Withers, of Old Kea, Truro, Cornwall, left estate valued at £2,961,047 net.

Mr Arthur Reginald Cox Marler, of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,025,581 net.

Mr Frank Worsford McClenaghan, of Highclere, Newbury, left estate valued at £1,598,667 net.

Betty Mudd, of Guisborough, Cleveland, left estate valued at £1,574,996 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J. Blackburn and Miss S.J. Bailey
The engagement is announced between Charlie, only son of the late Mr Keith Blackburn and of Mrs Elizabeth Blackburn, of Hurley, Berkshire, and Serena, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs David Bailey, of East Meon, Hampshire.

Captain M.A. Claxton and Miss L.A. Meehan
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Claxton, of Farningham, Kent, and Lorraine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Meehan, of Milford, Derbyshire.

Mr P. Cooper and Miss E.A. Mead
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Cooper, of Gravesend, Kent, and Liz, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Bernard Mead, of Corfe Mullen, Dorset.

Mr J. Cunningham and Miss R.P. Lethborg
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alan Cunningham, of Camberley, Surrey, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Lethborg, of Papamoa, New Zealand.

Mr O.C. Hudson and Miss C.J. Lindley
The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr Richard Hudson, of Beverley, East Yorkshire, and Mrs Judi Lurie, of Anlaby, East Yorkshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Lindley, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

Mr N.G. Lloyd and Miss M.E.C. Scowen
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs G.R. Lloyd, of Stoke by Clare, Suffolk, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.A. Scowen, of Epsom, Surrey.

Mr W.J. Micklethwait and Miss A.E. Bernard
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Micklethwait, of Preston Hall, Rutland, and Alicia, elder daughter of Sheila Lady Bernard, of London SW3, and Sir Dallas Bernard, Bt, of 106 Cheyne Walk, London SW10.

Mr T.D.P.C. Miers and Miss D.E. Gray
The engagement is announced between Tom, younger son of Sir David and Lady Miers, of London, and Diana, eldest daughter of Mrs Jaca Crawford and stepdaughter of Mr George Crawford, of Gifford, East Lothian.

Mr J.B. Milne and Miss L.C.A. Stanley
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Milne, of Blandford, Dorset, and Louisa, daughter of Mr Peter Stanley, of Cundall, Yorkshire, and Gunilla Gräfin Douglas, of 31 The Little Boltons, London.

Mr S.J.W. Perrett and Miss V.L. Morris
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Perrett, of Hale, Cheshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr Roy Morris, DL, and Mrs Morris, of Formby, Merseyside.

Captain R.E.L. Pittman and Miss I.M. Drinkall
The engagement is announced between Captain Rupert Pittman, The Queen's Royal Lancers, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Pittman, of Poyntington, Dorset, and Isabel, younger daughter of Commander and Mrs B.W. Drinkall, of Merriott, Somerset.

Mr M.R. Paviour and the Hon Lorna Weir
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Brigadier and Mrs Andrew Paviour, of Broughton, Hampshire, and Lorna, daughter of Viscount Weir, of Rodinghead, Ayrshire, and Mrs Brian Johnson, of London and Scansano, Italy.

Mr N.W.R. Shakespeare and Miss G.K. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs John Shakespeare, of Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire, and Gillian, daughter of the late Dr and Mrs George Johnson, of Winnipeg, Canada.

Mr P.K. Skinner and Miss A.P. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Piers, son of Captain and Mrs Antony Skinner, of Winchester, and Amelia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edgar Phillips, of Knowle.

Mr N.F. Wass and Miss R.L. Williams
The engagement is announced between Niall, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Wass, of Kenya and Clapham, London, and Rebecca, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Stafford Williams, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr C.A.F. Weir and Miss J.C. Aglionby
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr Arthur Weir and the late Mrs Andrina Weir, and stepson of Mrs Penny Weir, and Julia, daughter of His Honour and Mrs Francis Aglionby.

Mr M.O.S. West and Miss B.J. Knight
The engagement is announced between Matt, elder son of Mr Neil West, of Phoenix, Arizona, and Mrs Susan West, of Bromley, and Bridget, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Knight, of Itchen Abbas, Hampshire.

Marriages

Mr P.F. Allen and Miss E.V. Western
The marriage of Mr Philip Allen and Miss Emma Western took place in Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday, April 10. The Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Revd Robert Hardy, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, Canon Robert Western, was attended by Mrs Katie Tribe, Miss Amy Gardner and Ottilia Tribe. Mr Charles Gozzard was best man.

Mr I.N. Kirton and Miss T.L.O. Glen
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill, of Mr Ian Kirton to Miss Tara Glen. The Rev Dr William Brierley officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mr Nicholas Woods was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent sailing in the Grenadines.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Montagu, Earl of Halifax, statesman, President of the Royal Society 1695-98, Horton, Northamptonshire, 1661; Sir John Franklin, Arctic explorer, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, 1786; Anatole France, novelist and critic, Paris, 1844; Wilbur Wright, pioneer of aviation, Milville, Indiana, 1867; John Millington Synge, dramatist, Newtown Litten, near Dublin, 1871; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, actor, London, 1889; Sir John Bagot Glubb (Glubb Pasha), commander of the Arab Legion 1939-56, Preston, Lancashire, 1897.

DEATHS: George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, statesman, Kirkby Moorside, Yorkshire, 1687; Henry Fuseli, painter and writer, London, 1825; Francesco de Goya, painter, Bordeaux, 1828; Marie Tussaud, founder of the waxwork exhibition, London, 1850; Alexis Charles de Tocqueville, historian, Cannes, 1859; St Bernadette of Lourdes, Nevers, France, 1879; Samuel Smiles, social reformer, London, 1904; Edna Ferber, novelist, New York, 1968.

The Duke of Cumberland's forces defeated the Jacobite Scots at the Battle of Culloden, 1746.

The Royal Yacht *Britannia* was launched, 1953.

The communist Khmer Rouge seized Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, 1975.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass. But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; your name endures to all generations. Psalm 102.11-12 (NRSV).

BIRTHS

BASU - On 10th April, to Louise (née Farrer) and Neil, a son, James Patrick.

FAWCETT - To Tanya (Tango, née Bolton), and Tom, on 7th April 1999, a son, Frederick Robin Arthur.

FISHER - On April 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Christine and Todd, a son, Oliver, a brother for Julia and Sophie.

GIANNETTO - On April 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Jennifer and James, a daughter, Anneta Kristina, a sister for Julia.

GRACE - On 14th April 1999, to Sara Jane (née Christopherson) and Dominic, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for George and Rupert.

GRANT - On 14th April, to Georgia and David, a son, Harvey Robert, a brother for Ella and Joseph.

HUNTER - On April 2nd 1999 to Tracey (née Dale) and Richard, a beautiful daughter, Ophelia, a sister for the lovely Isabella.

KESTERTON - On 8th April at home to Paul and Anne (née Barsh) a son, Harry George Feliks, a brother for Toby, Lara and Jack.

BIRTHS

KORMOS - On April 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Krisztina (née Kisfalvi) and Miklos, a splendid baby girl, Claudia.

MEEHAN - On April 7th, to Angela and John, a son, Charles Robert John.

O'HARE - On April 13th 1999 at The Portland Hospital, to Marnie and David Hoddle, a daughter, Ella Connie Vincenti, to love and cherish always.

OKUNO - On April 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Yumiko and Sohei, a daughter, Saya.

PARKER - On April 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Teresa and Michael, a son, Jack Tempest. 8lbs 10ozs, 21 inches long.

REES - On April 9th to Daya-Lucienne (née Mann) and James, a son, Edward Francis Stewart.

STITT - On 26th March to Melissa Hardinge and Alex Stitt, a beautiful daughter, Scarlett Love.

STUBLAR - On April 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Cindy (née Judge) and John, a daughter, Hannah, a sister for Tyson.

VAN LAUN - On 13th April 1999, to Emma (née Thomson) and Tim, a daughter, Anna Catherine Esther.

VARNAVA - On April 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Maria and Varnavas, a daughter, Anna Maria.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ALCOCK:PEARS - On Easter Saturday 1949, Instructor Lieutenant Robert Kenneth Alcock RN to Nina Rose Pears at Victoria Park Methodist Church, Bournemouth. Now living at Welwyn Garden City, nearer than usual to Alistair, Kate, Simon, Thomas, Eleanor and Richard. To whom many thanks for Sunday's celebration.

DEATHS

BECKETT - Susan (Sue) Jennifer née Lloyd on April 9th aged 41 years peacefully in Singapore after her brave battle against cancer. Beloved friend and wife of Doug, daughter of Stella and the late Albert, sister of Martin, Janet and Philip. Sue leaves a worldwide loving circle of friends and will be sadly missed. The funeral will take place at All Saints Church, Barkhart Road, Orpington, Kent at 1 pm on Thursday 22nd April, prior to private interment. All that knew and loved her are welcome to the church service. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Breakthrough Breast Cancer or Save the Children Fund c/o Francis Chappell Funeral Directors, 87 The Walnuts, Orpington, Kent, tel: (01689) 823777 to whom enquiries about the funeral should be addressed.

BROWN - John died 29th March aged 90. Journalist, Author. Funeral at Torquay Crematorium 2pm, today 16th April.

DEATHS

BUCKLEY - Alice died peacefully in Mayday Hospital, Croydon on Tuesday April 13th 1999 aged 90 years. Last of her generation, will be sadly missed by family and friends. Enquiries to J B Shakespeare Ltd, 0181 688 1447.

BURROWS - Col. Ian Burrows OBE, died on 31st March 1999. Much loved cousin and husband of Barbara. Loved by their many friends. Cremation took place Tuesday 13th April. Donations if desired to The Middlesex Regiment, c/o F.W. Chitty & Co. Ltd., 45 Elm Grove Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

COLIN - Christiane, elder daughter of the late M.E. Ruffer DSO OBE TD Chevalier de la Legion D'Honour. See Ruffer.

COOK - Gweneth, widow of Sir Thomas Cook, died peacefully at home on April 14th. Private Funeral. Family flowers only but donations to either St John Ambulance Brigade or the Royal British Legion c/o Mitchell & Rollins, Barn View, Wood Norton, East Dereham, Norfolk. Service of Thanksgiving on 21st April at 2.30pm at the church of St Peter and St Paul, Fakenham.

DE WOLF - John Kendall (aged 63) after sudden illness. Beloved husband of Molly, loving father of Stuart, Philip and Susan, doting grandfather to Jack, Maisie, Amy, India and Charlotte died 12th April 1999. A service of thanksgiving for John's life will be held Tuesday, 20th April at 10.45 am in St Thomas Church, Upshire (near Waltham Abbey), Essex. No flowers but donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation and the Guillain Barré Society c/o D C Poulton & Son, Funeral Directors, Clarks Lane, Epping, Essex.

DIXON - Conrad Hepworth, on April 13th at Salisbury District Hospital. Funeral St James's Church, Ludgershall on Thursday 22nd April at 12 noon. Donations to The Missions to Seamen. Enquiries to Dunning F/D, tel: (01264) 334438.

DONALD - William Graham on April 13th peacefully in Kingston Hospital aged 90. Private cremation, family only. Thanksgiving Service 2.30 pm Friday April 23rd St Nicholas Church, Thames Ditton. No flowers but donations if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o Frederick Paine, 29 Coombe Road, Norbiton, Surrey.

FOSTER - Moira Alice Beatrix (née Orr), widow of the late Brigadier Roderick Nelson Foster. Peacefully on 13th April 1999, beloved mother of Keith and Alan and grandmother of Charles, Antony and Deborah. Funeral service will be held at Salisbury Crematorium on Wednesday 21st April 1999 at 2.20pm. All flowers may be sent to Thomas Free & Sons Ltd, The Parade, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1NE. Tel 01672 512110.

GAIN - Norman Joseph. April 9th 1999. Peacefully in hospital aged 91 years. Oxford University 1927 - 1932. Classics Master Ripon Grammar School, York 1932 - 1935; Heath School, Halifax 1935 - 1952; Liverpool Collegiate 1952 - 1972. Will be very sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral Mass at St Charles, Borromeo Church, Aigburth Road, Liverpool 17 on Tuesday 20th April at 12.05pm followed by cremation at Springwood Crematorium at 1.00pm. Flowers and or donations gratefully received for the Methodist Home For The Aged, c/o Pearson Collinson Funeral Service, 91 Allerton Road, Liverpool L18 2DD. Tel: 0151 722 1514.

GODBER - Geoffrey, C.B.E., D.L. at Chichester on 13th April aged 86. For nearly 62 years the darling husband of Norah and much loved father of Christopher, Jonathan and Peter. Funeral and Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's, Singleton on Thursday 22nd April at 2.30pm. Family flowers only; donations to Singleton Church Fabric Fund, 24 Charlton, Chichester PO18 0HU.

HARDMAN - Joyce. On April 14th, 1999, peacefully at the age of 92, having recently bravely survived a stroke. Much loved mother of Peter, grandmother of Fiona and Christopher and great-grandmother to five. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Tuesday, 27th April at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Hospice in the Weald or Crowborough Animal Welfare, c/o Paul Bysouth Funeral Services, Crowborough. Tel: (01892) 655000.

HOLLOWAY - Veronica Mary, affectionately known as "Ronnie", of Moseley, Birmingham, peacefully on April 11th 1999 aged 77 years. Wife of the late Graham Holloway and mother of Christopher, John, Virginia, Louise and the late Andrew. Service at The Oratory on Wednesday April 21st at 12.45 pm followed by Committal at Robin Hood Crematorium at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations for St Marys Hospice, 176 Raddlebarn Road, Selly Park, Birmingham 29.

HAYLLAR - S. David passed away on Monday 12th April after a long illness courageously borne. Much loved by family and friends. Funeral at New Southgate Crematorium on Wednesday 21st April at 1.30pm.

HUMPHRIES - (née Gelderd). On April 13th 1999, peacefully in hospital, Valerie, aged 66 years of Gatley, Cheshire. The beloved wife of Gerard and mother of Stephen, Paul, David, Frances and Bernard. All enquiries to Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd, tel 0161 428 2097.

JONES - Garda, aged 94, peacefully on 11th April. Beloved wife of the late Harry MacDougal Jones (Nap) and dearly loved mother of Jennifer. Funeral 21st April at 3.30pm, St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, East Finchley, London N2. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to The Dogs Home Battersea, c/o The Director General, Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA.

LAMPRELL-JARRETT - On 13th April 1999, Peter Neville Lamprell-Jarrett, KCSG., KCHS, loving husband of Kay, father of Jonathan and Sarah. Requiem Mass at the Carmelite Church, Kensington Church Street, W8 on Wednesday 21st April 1999 at 11am followed by private burial. Enquiries to A France & Son, tel 0171 405 4901.

LEVICK - Stella (née Kent), widow of Claude Blaxland Levick, died peacefully at Victoria Nursing Home, Hove on 30th March 1999. The cremation will be held at Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton on Monday 26th April 1999 at 12 noon.

MILNES - Barbara Joan (née Thompson) on April 13th 1999. Beloved wife of Charles Francis Milnes, much loved mother of Julie Jaffray, Caroline Cronson, and Paul Milnes, and Grandmother of Christopher, Isobel and Noah. Funeral Mass at St Josephs Church, Christchurch at 9.45 am on Thursday April 22nd followed by cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired may be sent for "Silverways Nursing Home" to Miller Bros and F.P. Butler Ltd., Funeral Directors, 119 Bargates, Christchurch, Dorset. Tel: 01202 485439.

ORMEROD - Dr Ian Michael peacefully on 13th April 1999 aged 77 after a long illness. Beloved husband of the late Jean and brother of Ginnie and Julie, much loved father of John and Nick and grandfather of James and Clare. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday 2nd June 1999 at St John's Wood Church, NW8. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to The Royal Theatrical Fund c/o J H Kenyon, Funeral Directors, 49 Marloes Road, London W8. A private family cremation.

PAVRY - Birgitta Christina (née Rydemark) died peacefully on April 13th after a short illness. She will be deeply missed by many. Cremation at Putney Vale 2 pm Wednesday 21st April. Family flowers only. Donations to R.S.P.C.A.

ROSTRON - Gordon, aged 67, passed away peacefully in his sleep after a long illness, surrounded by Sue, loving son Neil and Gabriela on 11th April 1999. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Service Saturday at 2.00pm, 17th April at Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Marsham Street, SW1. Donations if desired to the church or flowers to the cemetery. Service Tuesday 20th April, 2.00pm at Carleton Cemetery Chapel, Stocks Lane, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackpool, FY6 7QS.

RUFFER - Peacefully on 12th April 1999 after a short stay in hospital Christiane, elder daughter of the late M.E. Ruffer DSO OBE TD Chevalier de la Legion D'Honour and the late Mrs Ruffer of Flint Cottage, Mickleham. Widow of Jacques Colin of Paris and devoted mother of Henri Colin and beloved sister of Anne-Marie and Ernest. Funeral at Temple de L'Oratoire Eglise Reforme de France, 145 Rue St Honore, 75001 Paris, Wednesday 21st April 3pm, followed by burial at Cemetiere de Courbevoie. No flowers by request.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

ANTHONY NEWLEY

Anthony Newley, actor, singer, composer and lyricist, died of cancer in Jensen Beach, Florida, on April 14 aged 67. He was born in London on September 24, 1931.

Anthony Newley was an all-round entertainer who first came to prominence as a 17-year-old playing the Artful Dodger in David Lean's 1948 film of *Oliver Twist*. He made a successful transition from child to adult actor and pursued a steady if unexceptional film career before making a new reputation as a popular singer and writer of stage musicals.

With his collaborator Leslie Bricusse he was responsible for the book, music and lyrics for *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off* and *The Roar of the Greasepaint, The Smell of the Crowd* and took big acting parts in both. The shows played to critical acclaim in London and on Broadway, spawned a number of hit songs and won many awards.

In 1985, when he was working mainly as a cabaret artist, renal cell cancer was diagnosed. The disease went into remission but returned last year. A few months later, however, he joined the cast of the television soap opera *EastEnders*, playing a crooked car salesman. But it was a small part, lasting only three episodes, screened last October.

Newley was himself from the East End, the son of a builder he did not know as a child and only met many years later. Though he was not strictly a Cockney (he was born in Hackney), Newley's public image, which he happily cultivated, was very much that of the canny working-class Londoner who knows all the angles.

He left school early to join a Fleet Street advertising agency as a teaboy, and from there moved to the Italia Conti stage school, paying for his lessons by working in the office. He made his theatre debut with the Colchester Repertory Company and got his first film part at the age of 14 in *The Adventures of Dusty Bates*.

The critical success of *Oliver Twist*, in which Newley played opposite a formidable Fagin in Alec Guinness, guaranteed further work in the cinema, and he appeared in nearly 30 films in the 1950s and early 1960s. But few were memorable and even in the better ones, such as *Cockleshell Heroes* or *The Battle of the River Plate*, Newley was usually well down the cast list.

By the time he achieved star billing, playing the name part of a small-time London crook in *The Small World of Sammy Lee* in 1962, he was much better known in other fields. The turning point was an otherwise minor film, *Idle on Parade*, in which he played a conscripted rock'n'roll singer and, more importantly, co-wrote and sang the title song.

Although meant to be a parody, the song became a chart hit and helped Newley to a new career as a recording artist and, with it, a substantial following as a pop idol. He followed *Idle on Parade* with a string of ballad numbers, such as *Why?*, *Do You Mind?* (written for him by Lionel Bart) and *D-Darling*. Among those who acknowledged the influence of Newley's vocal style, with its distinctive stretched vowels, was the young David Bowie.

In 1960 Newley starred in an experimental television series for ITV, *The Strange World of Gurney Slade*, which failed with the public and was soon withdrawn from its peak slot in the schedule and banished to the late evening. But the setback was temporary and in the following year *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off* opened in London.



Anthony Newley: from child star in the cinema to success as a writer of musicals

The show was a landmark in the history of the British musical, notable for its freedom of form and cynicism of content as it charted the bittersweet rise of its central character, played by Newley, from teaboy to millionaire. For Newley, its lasting legacy was its songs. They included *Gonna Build Me a Mountain* and *What Kind of Fool Am I?* which sold more than a million records and became his signature tune.

Set in a circus, *The Roar of the Greasepaint, The Smell of the Crowd* followed in 1964, transferring to Broadway and gained further kudos for the Newley-Bricusse partnership. At this time the team wrote the lyrics for the theme song of the James Bond film, *Goldfinger*, which became a hit for Shirley Bassey.

As an actor Newley starred in the film musical of *Dr Dolittle*, which had a Bricusse score, and in 1969 he was the star, director, writer and composer of *Can Hieronymous Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Hummpe and Find True Happiness?*

More successful was a further collaboration with Bricusse on the film of Roald Dahl's story, *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Among later songs Newley wrote himself was *The Candy Man*, which was recorded by Sammy Davis Jr.

Newley spent much of the 1970s and 1980s in the United States. His stage musical *Chaplin* was produced in Los Angeles in 1983, but his chief distinction during this period was as a cabaret and nightclub performer. In Las Vegas he commanded the same attention as Tony Bennett, Dean Martin or Frank Sinatra.

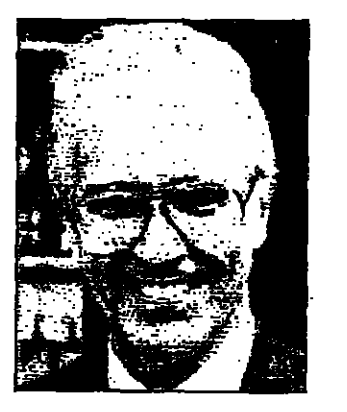
With his career in the doldrums he returned to Britain at the end of the Eighties. An attempt to make a West End comeback with a new production of *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off* failed; the show lasted only a few weeks. He had little more luck playing Scrooge in a musical of that name written by Bricusse. A long-cherished project, it toured the regions for some years before coming to London at Christmas 1996; but it made little impact.

In 1990 he appeared on BBC television opposite Joan Collins, his second wife, in one of a sequence of plays by Noël Coward, *Tonight at 8.30*. Newley and Collins had married in 1963 but they separated acrimoniously in the early Seventies, and she later wrote scathingly about him in her autobiography.

Newley's first marriage, to Elizabeth Ann Lynn, was dissolved. He is survived by two children from his marriage to Collins, and two from his marriage to his third wife, Dareth Dunn, which ended in divorce in 1988. Latterly he had lived with Gina Fratini, a fashion designer.

PAUL HYZLER

Paul Hyzler, CBE, medical adviser, died on March 5 aged 66. He was born on November 21, 1932.



PAUL HYZLER worked tirelessly to improve the health of people all over the globe, through his involvement with the World Heath Organisation. At WHO he was noted for his supreme technical knowledge, and held in high regard for his integrity and negotiating skills, qualities which led to his appointment as CBE in 1991. He was later in life most notably involved in health projects in his adoptive country of Malta.

Hyzler was born in Cairo, the son of a professor of music who was also a draughtsman. At the International School his gift for languages emerged: he became fluent in French, Italian, Maltese and Arabic, and at 16 he moved to Malta.

He was both a talented watercolourist and an accomplished pianist, and had he not narrowly missed a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, he would have been lost to the medical profession. As it was, he studied medicine at the University of Malta and obtained his MD in 1958. Having specialised in infectious diseases and public health, he served Malta as physician-superintendent of its hospital for infectious diseases and as the medical director of St Luke's General Hospital.

It was as the Maltese representative at the World Health Assembly that Hyzler began his lifelong association with the World Health Organisation, which awarded him fellowships in 1961 and 1962.

When Hyzler entered the Department of Health in England as a medical officer in 1972, his wide experience of international health issues was quickly recognised. He not only became a principal adviser to a succession of ministers and chief medical officers, but was called on repeatedly by WHO, for instance, in the final stages of the programme for the eradication of smallpox.

During this period he was a key official supporting the British delegations at the annual meetings of the World Health Assembly and European Regional Committees, and he negotiated and administered bilateral health agreements between Britain and the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland and Egypt.

While working for the Department of Health he was also responsible for organising the repatriation and isolation of British citizens thought to have been in contact abroad with Lassa fever.

After his retirement from the Department of Health in 1992 he returned to Malta to draft its strategic health policy, although this was not implemented in his lifetime. He was instrumental in establishing Malta as a model for effective health policy formulation.

He married Lise in 1963. She survives him, along with two sons and a daughter.

CANON SELWYN GUMMER

Canon Selwyn Gummer, editor of *Pulpit Monthly*, died on April 12 aged 91. He was born on December 19, 1907.



SERMONS by Selwyn Gummer have probably been heard by more people than those by any other writer in Britain this century. For 30 years he wrote sermons for others to preach, week by week, and distributed them in the busy priest's vade mecum, *Pulpit Monthly*. There were never fewer than 3,000 grateful clerical subscribers, and they received not only sermons to suit the Church calendar, but a commentary and book reviews, almost all written by Gummer.

Selwyn Gummer was born in Blaengarw, Glamorgan, the third child in a family of nine. He came of Herefordshire stock but learnt to speak fluent Welsh the better to be able to take part in local and national eisteddfodau. There he won more than a hundred prizes as a boy soprano, bringing in money that was very welcome in a family blighted by the blindness of his father.

The family circumstances meant that Gummer could not complete his education, and it was as a late entrant that he went to University College, Cardiff, to read theology and subsequently to train for the Baptist ministry.

His first church, in Cwmbran, was soon a lively centre with a remarkable Sunday school, one of whose scholars was Alun Gwynne Jones, later Lord Chalfont, whose grandfather was choirmaster. Gummer was already much sought-after as a preacher in both English and Welsh, and was being groomed for great things in the Baptist Union.

However, he was increasingly questioning the teachings of the denomination, and an experience at an early morning Communion one day led to his decision to become an Anglican. He trained for the Ministry of the Church of England at Wycliff Hall under the watchful eye of Christopher Chavasse. Following Chavasse to Rochester when he became bishop, Gummer threw himself into parish life and his chaplaincy to the RAF in Brompton, Chatham.

Yet it was at the first meeting of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam that he found his true vocation. He was attending as the correspondent of the *Daily Herald* when he and another convert from Nonconformism, D. R. Davies, decided to do something about the standard of preaching in the Church of England. *Pulpit Monthly* was born with them sharing the editorial work, but Gummer soon took over entirely.

By the time he finally gave up in 1988 there were 30 volumes. The sermons were written not only with an eye to the readings and lessons, but in a form that encouraged improvisation and embellishment, allowing each priest to make his own contribution.

At first there was some resistance to the idea of a central sermon service, but *Pulpit Monthly* was soon accepted by the Church (if not much publicised outside). Gummer even had to see off a number of rivals, such as *The Raven*. Only in his mid-seventies did he give up writing the magazine, when the introduction of different service books and the Roman Catholic Church's change to a three-year cycle had made the business of synchronised sermons much more difficult.

Gummer was chairman of Arthur Rank's company Religious Films, and led industrial missions to many English cities. He wrote regular leaders for the *Record* newspaper, and produced a book on the Puritan divine Matthew Henry. His book *Let Battle Commence* challenged the received attitudes of the postwar Church, and argued that with vast new parishes and responsibilities, priests could not be expected to be expert at everything. His pulpit-ready sermons were aimed especially at those whose gifts were pastoral rather than intellectual.

As Rector and Rural Dean of Gravesend, where Princess Pocahontas is buried, he became chaplain to the British delegation to the celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the founding of Virginia. He was an honorary canon of Rochester Cathedral, and finished his parochial ministry in Brighton. He was married for 56 years to Sybille Mason, until her death in 1993.

He is survived by three sons: John Gummer, the former Secretary of State for the Environment, and the businessmen Lord Chadlington and Mark Selwyn Gummer.

NICOLA TRUSSARDI

Nicola Trussardi, fashion designer, died on April 15 aged 56 after a car crash the previous day. He was born on June 17, 1942.

MANY Italian fashion houses began with a reputation for one particular garment or accessory. In the case of Trussardi, it was gloves. The company was started in Bergamo in 1911 by the master glove-maker Dante Trussardi, and for 60 years it concentrated on exquisite gloves, which became renowned the world over. Its transformation into an all-purpose fashion label was the work of the founder's grandson.

Nicola Trussardi graduated in economics from the Catholic University of Milan, and went to work in the family factory, taking over the company in 1970 after the death of his father and elder brother.

From the very beginning his sights were on expansion into a wide range of products and into new markets, and as fashion allied itself with the entertainment industry, he had not only the business sense but the necessary theatrical flair.

He started by organising a new tannery, concentrating on better techniques for treating, refining and working the leather. This meant that softer and more supple leathers than usual could be introduced for bags and suitcases. Precious materials such as python and crocodile skins were to become a speciality.



Trussardi (1998): posing in Milan with two models

In 1973 Trussardi virtually relaunched itself with a new line of luxury goods and introduced a logo — in this case a greyhound — so that customers could flatter themselves that they were not just buying a handbag, but were making a symbolic investment in a stylish way of life. "The Trussardi style characterises fashion, interior design, household linen and home furnishings," the company bragged, "while the greyhound becomes the distinctive sign of a real art of living."

It worked. The first collection sold well, and new products were quickly added — belts, shoes, umbrellas, foulards and ties. Trussardi opened its first shop in 1976 in Milan, and a chain of boutiques followed, at swanky addresses around the world, including Harrods. The boutiques now number 183, mostly in the form of franchises.

The next move was into ready-to-wear clothing. A women's collection was launched in 1983 at La Scala in Milan, followed the next year by a men's line. More recently, baby and children's clothes have been added. Trussardi products now range from carpets to watches, and the company has also collaborated with other manufacurers in the design of car and aircraft interiors.

Nicola Trussardi had a taste for the lavish and spectacular, and bought numerous villas, including one on the island of Elba. He courted the famous, including Pavarotti, Tina Turner and the Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi (before his fall). In 1987, the company won the highly prized contract to design the Italian uniform for the Seoul Olympics and the Calgary Winter Olympics.

During the 1980s Trussardi fostered a new cultural image by making costumes for Pasolini's play *Bestia da stile*, for Carreras in Verdi's *Macbeth* in the Verona Arena and for the ballet. In the endless process of associating the brand with the beautiful people, Trussardi also set up the Palatrussardi on the outskirts of Milan as a venue for concerts, and played host to Frank Sinatra and others.

Further publicity — "in tune with a taste that is a way of behaving" — was garnered from involvement in innumerable exhibitions, sponsorship deals and self-promotions, such as the "Fashion World's Salute to Peace" in Israel in 1995. Trussardi also launched a series of perfumes and aftershaves — demonstrating its understanding of the essence of the business when "Action Uomo" won the Perfume Academy award for best packaging.

In 1996 the company moved into new headquarters in the Piazza della Scala, opposite the opera house in Milan. The seven-storey building — formerly a hotel — was opened out and transformed by the architects Gregotti, and now includes offices, showrooms, an art gallery, bookshop and a café. The following year Trussardi opened a new Paris boutique in the Place Vendôme. "We want a high-profile location in each major city," said Trussardi.

During the 1990s Nicola Trussardi invested widely, in banks, industry and real estate companies. His own company's sales last year reached 850 billion lire (nearly £300 million), and a deal signed in February with Teijin of Japan promises further expansion, with large stores planned in Tokyo and Osaka.

Nicola Trussardi is survived by his wife, Maria Luisa, and their two sons and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

April 16, 1963

The first CND march was in 1958. It was a well run body and physical confrontation with authority was never part of its policy. Although it has lost its momentum the campaign still numbers its supporters in thousands.

MARCHERS FIGHT POLICE — 72 HELD

More than 70 people were arrested in ugly scenes in London yesterday when many thousands of "Ban-the-bomb" marchers from Aldermaston fought with police on the final stages of their route through the West End to a mass rally in Hyde Park.

Hundreds of police struggled to keep the procession in some semblance of order as it wound through the streets, but on several occasions a contingent of about 300 marching under "Federation of London Anarchists" and "Committee of 100" banners broke the police ranks.

Women screamed as mounted police moved in to help nudge the column back into line. Helmets and banners were trampled underfoot and traffic was disrupted over a wide area. The demonstrators, mostly youths, jeered and cursed at the police and there were bloody noses and scratched faces on both sides. One policeman and a youth were slightly injured as they were forced in the path of the traffic and in Whitehall a youth was dragged away from the front of a double deck bus.

Leaders of the march were angered by the disorders. Canon Collins blamed groups who had "muscled in" on the march. "It is stupid and thoroughly to be regretted," he said. "They have distracted attention from the real purpose of the demonstration and done great harm to the cause they claim to be standing for." Mr Michael Foot, the Labour MP, said the incidents were a great pity. "It prevents people from hearing what we have to say. We have to persuade people who disagree with us, not bash them on the head."

The first serious clash occurred soon after the march left Hyde Park on the last lap of the 50-mile trek. The head of the column passed along Buckingham Palace Road and into Victoria Street without incident. Then Mr Peter Cadogan, international secretary of the Committee of 100, urged his own supporters and the anarchists to "spread out, fill up the road". Ignoring pleas from march marshals, the group rushed the police cordon with linked arms and forced them back. Only when mounted police and reinforcements of foot police moved in was the scuffling subdued.

Two and a half hours after the head of the column had reached Hyde Park for the rally the last contingents filed quietly in. Eggs were thrown at Canon Collins — who earlier had had a bag of flour emptied over his head — as he and other CND leaders spoke to a gathering now estimated to be near 40,000 . . .

NEWS

Nato admits bombing convoy

■ Nato's admission yesterday that an American F16 pilot mistakenly bombed a convoy of fleeing Albanian refugees failed to resolve the confusing picture over the raid. Belgrade claims that at least 72 people were killed in the attack.

Nato released a transcript of the pilot's account of the bombing raid in which he said he had fired at "three uniformly-shaped dark green vehicles" which he believed contained Yugoslav forces involved in setting fire to villages........ Reports, pages 1, 4-9

John Simpson accused of Serb bias

■ John Simpson, the BBC's veteran foreign correspondent, has run into fierce criticism from the Government over his coverage from Belgrade. Mr Simpson, the World Affairs Editor, has been accused by government sources of falling short of the standards expected of a leading journalist...................... Page 1

MP cleared of fraud

Labour appeared to have escaped the threat of a potentially embarrassing by-election when the Court of Appeal quashed the conviction for election fraud against Fiona Jones, the ex-MP for Newark........................ Page 2

Ulster talks in London

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern last night summoned Northern Ireland's three main political parties to Downing Street on Monday in yet another attempt to prevent the Good Friday peace accord from unravelling......................... Page 2

GP murder trial

A "dedicated, caring and well-liked doctor" went on trial for murder, accused of killing an elderly, bedridden patient by deliberately administering a fatal dose of diamorphine..................... Page 3

Skipper in court

The skipper of an ocean racer which capsized in rough seas, drowning two corporate hospitality passengers, was the only person on board wearing a life jacket and safety harness, a court has been told......................... Page 11

New solar system

Astronomers have found the first solar system around a star other than the Sun. Three giant planets are in orbit around the star Upsilon Andromedae, a Sun-like star 44 light years away, two groups of astronomers found...... Page 12

Prescott's poor show

John Prescott was said to be "hurt and depressed" at the calamitous Commons performance that sparked a flurry of speculation about his future.............. Page 15

Pinochet attack

Baroness Thatcher launched a bitter personal attack on Jack Straw after the Home Secretary announced that General Augusto Pinochet must face extradition proceedings...................... Page 16

Coffin reveals secrets

An exquisite glass vessel that might have contained mascara, eyeliner or an oily perfume for use in the afterlife is among grave goods unearthed with the coffin of a young Roman woman in the centre of London............. Page 17

Bhutto jailed

Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, were sentenced to five years in jail and fined £5 million on corruption charges. The conviction will lead to her disqualification from politics for five years.................. Page 18

Gingrich returns

Newt Gingrich, the former House Speaker thrown into the wilderness five months ago, has returned to the limelight with a gala dinner in Washington to raise cash to promote his views and perhaps pave the way for another bid for office........... Page 19

New find is a whale of a bacterium

■ A giant bacterium the size of a full stop has been found living in sediment on the ocean floor off the coast of Namibia. If the average bacterium was the size of a newborn mouse, the new one would be the size of a blue whale. The new bacteria, *Thiomargarita namibiensis*, grow loosely attached to each other, like a string of pearls.. Page 12

STUART MASON



Prince Charles at Ducie High School in Moss Side, Manchester. While studying in Australia, he was called "the Pommy bastard". Page 3

BUSINESS

Jobs target: The French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn shook up his counterparts around Europe when he said Euro-wide targets should be set for unemployment................................. Page 27

Shock win: Electra Investment Trust pulled off an extraordinary victory when it persuaded more than the 75 per cent of shareholders that they needed to back restructuring plans............................ Page 27

Plastic money: Kevin McDonald, the founder of Polypipe, made £70 million when he sold the quoted company for £337 million.. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index slipped 27 points to 6466. The pound lost half a cent against the dollar to stand at $1.612 while the euro slipped to 66.53p........ Page 30

SPORT

Football: After their thrilling FA Cup semi-final victory over Arsenal on Wednesday night, Manchester United are on the brink of an unprecedented treble............. Page 52

London marathon: Veronique Marot, winner of the women's race ten years ago, has criticised the standard of British marathon running............................. Page 50

Cricket: County champions Leicestershire underlined their determination to hang on to their crown with a stirring fightback against Essex............................... Page 46

Golf: David Porter, of Stoneham, was the winner of the McEvoy Trophy, while 16-year-old Nick Dougherty set an amateur course record of 66, five under par in the final round................................ Page 49

French footwork: The Paris Opera Ballet is packing them in at two theatres with a new spring bill featuring old and new works — and a sensational couple............. Page 34

Richard Morrison: "It isn't the cost of making films that is prohibitive to us; it's the cost of persuading punters to view them" — movie marketing.......................... Page 35

Pop 1: Caitlin Moran talks to the Cardigans, the biggest Swedes since Abba, starting the UK leg of their world tour; plus live jazz gigs and album reviews............ Page 36

Pop 2: David Sinclair kicks a football around with Reef, one of the most obstinately old-school rock'n'roll bands England has produced in the 1990s; plus new albums............................... Page 37

Turban power: Not only do turbans make the most drab boys look like Rudolph Valentino in *The Sheik*, they can also conceal a girl's unwashed locks...................... Page 20

Raymond Snoddy: "The BBC is about to make the licence fee an issue again — by asking for more with even greater determination than Oliver Twist"............ Page 40

Auchtermuchty Man: "The secretary, in her mid-twenties and in awe of the great man, accepted. They went first to the office in Fleet Street, where the 60-year-old pounced. But they were interrupted by a journalist who wanted to show his editor a page proof," John Junor recalled.............................. Page 41

Great expectations: What should a child know at 3, 10 or 16? A series of new educational aids tells parents what will be expected of their offspring.............................. Page 43

With its haunting preoccupation with India and obsessive compulsion to match every Indian advance, Pakistan has to contrive a tit-for-tat. As a result, Pakistan has the dubious distinction of being the only nation that conducts tests of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles for political rather than for technical reasons.

The Hindustan Times, Dehli

Preview: The political commentator Brian Walden deconstructs the myths surrounding Saddam Hussein. *Walden on Villians* (BBC2, 7.30pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart on George "Dr Dreamboat" Clooney's exit from *ER*............... Pages 50, 51

Defender of Britain

England has a better friend in Gordon Brown than in those who wrap themselves in the flag of St George. The Union how has a defender equal to the fight............... Page 23

Sword and pen

Politicians never appear weaker than when they betray nervousness about enemy propaganda. On this front, and this alone, the Prime Minister should order an immediate ceasefire.................... Page 23

Prone ministers' questions

The next time John Prescott stands up at the dispatch box, deputising for the Prime Minister, he must be ready to be heard............... Page 23

PETER RIDDELL

The Newark case underlines the need for legislation well before the next general election and for an Election Commission to supervise elections and funding......... Page 15

SIMON JENKINS

What distinguishes the modern liberals from the Victorians is their reckless recourse to force, especially air power. It is as if ... they yearn to unleash their aggression against the sins of the world.......... Page 22

SIR MALCOLM RIFKIND

Three weeks ago I would have been against the deployment of ground troops ... Nato has committed itself too far to settle for less than a clear defeat of Mr Milosevic...... Page 22

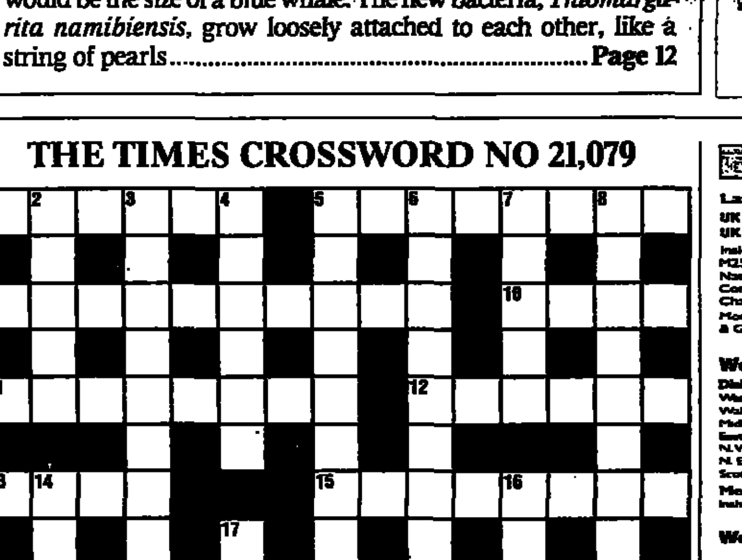
PHILIP HOWARD

The cavalry actions in which the British take most pride were catastrophic defeats such as the charges of the Light and Heavy Brigades at Balaclava.......................... Page 22

Anthony Newley, actor, singer; **Paul Hyzler**, medical adviser; **Canon Selwyn Gummer**, editor of *Pulpit Monthly*; **Nicola Trussardi**, fashion designer................ Page 25

SNP policies; legal rights for mentally ill; superstore prices; Pinochet; children and alcohol; millennium; the Euro balloon; St George's Day; age of consent; playing marbles; romance and chivalry........... Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,079



ACROSS

1 Caught defeated opponent? Not *so far* (6).
5 Shoot a person causing trouble in capital (8).
9 Device for torturing Tom's men (10).
10 Look to match symbolic design (4).
11 Routine to perform, when in charge (8).
12 So-called hero of novel mixed *drink* (6).
13 Scene of many games, like the president's office? (4).
15 Get the bird after changing gold standard in US (3,5).
18 Seating's arranged for exceptional female (8).
19 Artist's year in part of India (4).
21 One of the class getting mark at end of three months (6).
23 Mixed with another drink, it's this (8).
25 Modern music master in comprehensive school (4).
26 To be pedantic, a problem with locks? (5,5).
27 Pre-war competition (4,4).
28 Namely, hopeless amateurs (6).

DOWN

2 Hard-hearted humorist and composer of operettas (5).
3 Many imprisoned in colonies wrongly? One means to cut sentence (9).
4 Critic seeing game on film (6).
5 Opera, in brief, involved with able lovers (6,2,7).
6 Negative aspect of public school (8).
7 Parents out of line in island resort (5).
8 Wise old prime minister, a big cheese in the Midlands? (4,5).
14 Sound commentary, very old, on freeze (5-4).
16 Old soldier changing sides in regional fray, finally (9).
17 Banks are corrupt in this state (8).
20 Like animal found in area surrounded by dry lake (6).
22 Fish I caught therein, in principle (5).
24 English flag over Scottish island (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,078

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DISTINGUISHED
E W N O M O R I
CHIMERA PATTERN
I N P L A H A T
MIGHT KNIFEEDGE
A E I R A N
LAIDBACK ADORED
N R K C E E
BIGWIG BONDMAID
I M B N P I
KIDSSTUFF PUPIL
I I T C E R O E
NORFOLK TRIVIUM
I G N U T O N M
EXEMPLIGRATIA
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Times Two Crossword, page 52

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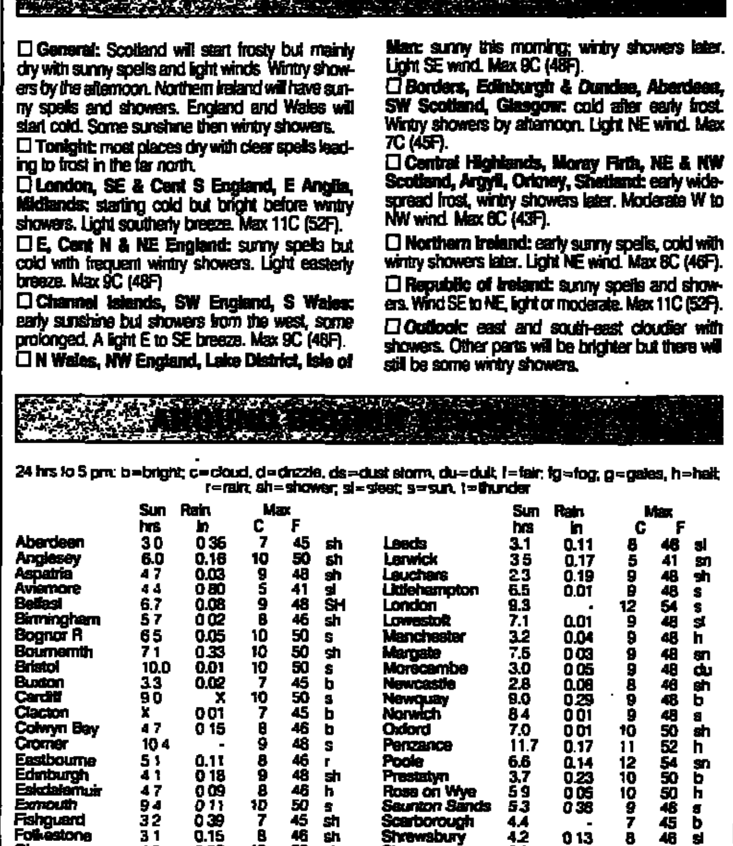
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.03 am — Sun sets: 7.58 pm
Moon sets: 8.23 pm — Moon rises: 6.41 am

New moon today

London 7.58 pm to 6.01 am
Bristol 8.08 pm to 6.12 am
Edinburgh 8.21 pm to 6.04 am
Manchester 8.11 pm to 6.06 am
Penzance 8.17 pm to 6.26 am



☐ **General:** Scotland will start frosty but mainly dry with sunny spells and light winds. Wintry showers by the afternoon. Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers. England and Wales will start cold. Some sunshine then wintry showers.

☐ **Tonight:** most places dry with clear spells leading to frost in the far north.

☐ **London, SE & Cent S England, E Anglia, Midlands:** starting cold but bright before wintry showers. Light southerly breeze. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **E, Cent N & NE England:** sunny spells but cold with frequent wintry showers. Light easterly breeze. Max 9C (48F)

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales:** early sunshine but showers from the west, some prolonged. A light E to SE breeze. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** sunny this morning; wintry showers later. Light SE wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ ***Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow:*** cold after early frost. Wintry showers by afternoon. Light NE wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** early widespread frost, wintry showers later. Moderate W to NW wind. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** early sunny spells, cold with wintry showers later. Light NE wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny spells and showers. Wind SE to NE, light or moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ ***Outlook:*** east and south-east cloudier with showers. Other parts will be brighter but there will still be some wintry showers.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales, h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun, t=thunder

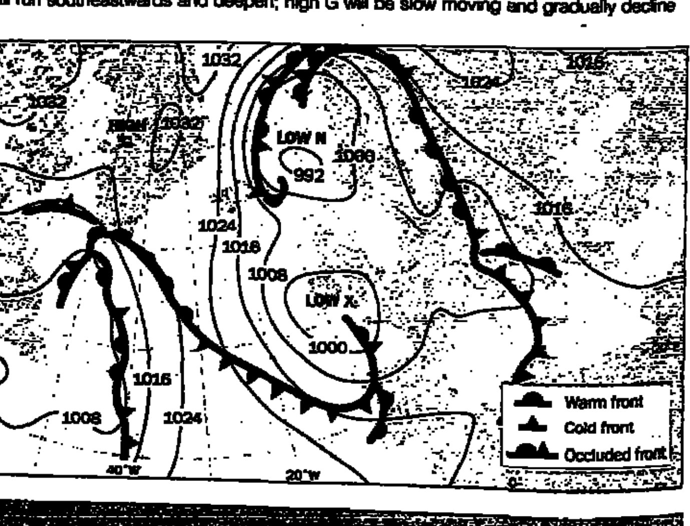
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.0	0.36	7	45	sh	Leeds	3.1	0.11	8	46	sl
Anglesey	6.0	0.16	10	50	sh	Lerwick	3.5	0.17	5	41	sn
Aspatria	4.7	0.03	9	48	sh	Leuchars	2.3	0.19	9	48	sh
Aviemore	4.4	0.80	5	41	sl	Littlehampton	6.5	0.01	9	48	s
Belfast	6.7	0.08	9	48	SH	London	9.3	-	12	54	s
Birmingham	5.7	0.02	8	46	sh	Lowestoft	7.1	0.01	9	48	sl
Bognor R	6.5	0.05	10	50	s	Manchester	3.2	0.04	9	48	h
Bournemth	7.1	0.33	10	50	sh	Margate	7.5	0.03	9	48	sn
Bristol	10.0	0.01	10	50	s	Morecambe	3.0	0.05	9	48	du
Buxton	3.3	0.02	7	45	b	Newcastle	2.8	0.08	8	46	sh
Cardiff	9.0	X	10	50	s	Newquay	9.0	0.29	9	48	b
Clacton	X	0.01	7	45	b	Norwich	8.4	0.01	9	48	s
Colwyn Bay	4.7	0.15	8	46	b	Oxford	7.0	0.01	10	50	sh
Cromer	10.4	-	9	48	s	Penzance	11.7	0.17	11	52	h
Eastbourne	5.1	0.11	8	46	r	Poole	6.6	0.14	12	54	sn
Edinburgh	4.1	0.18	9	48	sh	Prestatyn	3.7	0.23	10	50	b
Eskdalemuir	4.7	0.09	8	46	h	Ross on Wye	5.9	0.05	10	50	h
Exmouth	*9.4*	*0.11*	*10*	*50*	*s*	*Saunton Sands*	*5.3*	*0.38*	*9*	*48*	*s*
Fishguard	3.2	0.39	7	45	sh	Scarborough	4.4	-	7	45	b
Folkestone	3.1	0.15	8	46	sh	Shrewsbury	4.2	0.13	8	46	sl
Glasgow	4.5	0.02	10	50	sh	Skegness	6.0	-	9	48	c
Guernsey	7.9	0.22	11	52	sh	Southend	7.2	-	9	48	s
Hastings	3.1	0.06	8	46	sl	Southport	X	0.04	10	50	sh
Hayling I.	6.6	0.01	10	50	s	Southsea	4.4	0.01	11	52	s
Herne Bay	9.2	0.03	8	46	s	Stornoway	8.7	0.09	7	45	sh
Hunstanton	6.7	-	9	48	b	Swanage	7.2	0.13	9	48	sh
Isle of Man	6.7	0.09	9	48	s	Teignmouth	9.4	0.10	11	52	sh
Isle of Wight	6.8	0.04	9	48	s	Tenby	7.7	0.46	10	50	sh
Jersey	8.8	0.63	10	50	s	Tiree	9.5	0.02	8	46	s
Kinloss	1.7	0.32	9	48	sh	Torquay	7.2	0.14	11	52	s

Yesterday: highest day temp: Northolt, London, 12C (54F): lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 5C (41F). highest rainfall: Aviemore, Highland, 0.80in; highest sunshine: Penzance, Cornwall, 11.7 hr

Ajaccio	15	59	s	Cologne	5	41	c	Madrid	18	64	s	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	20	68	f	C'phagn	8	46	f	Majorca	18	64	s	Salzburg	11	52	s
Alex'dria	31	88	s	Corfu	16	61	f	Malaga	19	66	s	S Frisco	14	57	s
Algiers	20	68	s	Dublin	5	41	f	Malta	19	66	s	Santiago	21	70	s
Amst'dm	7	45	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melbourne	X			S Paulo	X		
Athens	20	68	s	Faro	22	72	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	Seoul	15	59	s
Bahrain	27	81	s	Florence	17	63	f	Miami	28	82	s	Singapore	32	90	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Frankfurt	5	41	r	Milan	16	61	f	Stockholm	8	46	f
Barbados	29	84	s	Funchal	16	61	c	Montreal	9	48	f	Strasb'rg	12	54	c
Barcelona	*17*	*63*	*f*	*Geneva*	*11*	*52*	*f*	*Moscow*	*7*	*45*	*c*	*Sydney*	*24*	*75*	*s*
Beijing	18	64	s	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	11	52	s	Tangier	18	64	f
Beirut	19	66	f	Helsinki	7	45	c	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	X			Hong K	22	72	f	Naples	16	61	f	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	5	41	r	Innsbruck	15	59	s	N Delhi	34	93	s	Tokyo	20	68	s
Bermuda	21	70	s	Istanbul	11	52	f	N York	15	59	s	Toronto	17	63	s
Biarritz	14	57	f	Jeddah	30	86	s	Nice	16	61	s	Tunis	21	70	s
Bordeaux	11	52	f	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	3	37	r	Valencia	17	63	s
Brussels	5	41	f	L Palmas	21	70	c	Paris	4	39	r	Vanc'ver	9	48	s
Budapest	15	59	s	Le Touqet	6	43	f	Perth	X			Venice	13	55	f
B Aires	24	75	f	Lisbon	14	57	c	Prague	8	46	f	Vienna	11	52	f
Cairo	30	86	s	Locarno	16	61	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	sn	Warsaw	11	52	r
Cape Tn	24	75	s	L Angeles	13	55	s	Rhodes	19	66	f	Wash'ton	19	66	s
Chicago	15	59	f	Luxembg	0	32	sn	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wellngton	18	64	X
Ch'church	15	59	X	Luxor	31	88	s	Riyadh	31	88	s	Zurich	11	52	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday X = not available

Changes to the chart below from noon: low N will be slow moving and gradually fill; low X will run southeastwards and deepen; high G will be slow moving and gradually decline



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	*1:10*	4.3	13:18	4.5	Liverpool	11:12	10.0	23:36	9.9
Avonmouth	7:12	14.0	19:38	14.0	London Bridge	1:35	7.3	14:03	7.6
Belfast	10:54	3.6	23:22	3.5	Lowestoft	9:31	2.5	21:33	2.6
Cardiff	6:58	12.9	19:19	12.9	Margate	-	-	12:09	5.0
Devonport	5:37	5.7	18:02	5.7	Milford Haven	6:08	7.4	18:30	7.4
Dover	10:54	6.8	23:15	7.0	Newquay	5:00	7.4	17:21	7.4
Dublin	11:24	4.3	23:52	4.2	Oban	5:45	4.3	18:01	4.1
Falmouth	5:08	5.5	17:33	5.5	Penzance	4:28	5.8	16:50	5.7
Greenock	0:21	3.2	12:46	3.4	Portland	6:57	2.2	19:30	2.2
Harwich	-	-	12:03	4.2	Portsmouth	11:13	4.7	23:40	4.9
Holyhead	10:12	5.9	22:37	5.8	Shoreham	11:09	6.4	23:33	6.6
Hull (Albert D)	6:15	8.8	18:24	9.1	Southampton	10:47	4.6	23:12	4.8
Ilfracombe	5:57	9.7	18:18	9.8	Swansea	6:16	12.9	18:37	12.9
King's Lynn	6:15	7.3	18:25	7.8	Tees	3:34	10.1	15:45	10.3
Leith	2:26	5.7	14:39	5.8	Walton-On-Naze	11:52	4.4	-	

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

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Strauss-Kahn on collision course with ECB

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

DOMINIQUE Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, yesterday set France on a potential collision course with the European Central Bank, saying that he wanted euroland governments to introduce "quantifiable, binding" employment targets.

M Strauss-Kahn said that he was willing to respond to ECB demands to tighten French public spending but Europe also needed firm job growth targets and higher spending on "innovative" new business ventures.

Speaking before this weekend's informal European finance ministers meeting in Dresden, he added that he was confident an agreement on introducing a withholding tax on savings interest could be achieved by June.

Britain has steadfastly set itself against the new tax — which would also apply to bonds held overseas — unless eurobonds are specifically exempted. London is the global centre of the $3.25 trillion eurobond market and the British Government is concerned that the tax could drive much of the business abroad, causing widespread job losses in the City.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, yesterday insisted that Britain would veto the measure unless its concerns about the eurobond market were addressed.

A compromise proposal has been floated that would see eurobond holdings above €40,000 (£26,000) exempted from the tax, effectively restricting the tax to small-scale European investors.

However, Mario Monti, the acting EU Taxation Commissioner, ruled out this plan on Wednesday, claiming that it would lead to unfair tax discrimination.

M Strauss-Kahn's plans for job targets are unlikely to win the backing of senior ECB figures, who yesterday stepped up the pressure on euroland governments to introduce structural reforms.

A succession of ECB council members played down the impact of last week's half-point rate cut, repeating the Bank's view that only profound structural reforms could solve Europe's unemployment problems. Otto Issing, ECB chief economist, said: "It's an additional impulse about which one should have no illusions."

Herr Issing's views were echoed by Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, who said that last week's cut should not be "overestimated".

M Strauss-Kahn, however, insisted that his plans offered a sensible middle way between comprehensive labour market reforms and short-term stimulus packages.

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Business Today

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Huntsman on target
The US tycoon and Mormon who successfully brings Mammon and God together
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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6466.1	(-27.5)
Yield	2.13%	
FTSE All Share	2978.78	(-4.55)
Nikkei	16727.08	(-37.60)
New York:		
Dow Jones	10446.90	(+35.24)*
S&P Composite	1318.50	(-9.94)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	96[illegible]*	(96[illegible])
Yield	5.51%*	(5.51%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.14	(117.95)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6102*	(1.6122)
London:		
$	1.6124	(1.6177)
€	1.5030	(1.4963)
SFr	2.4136	(2.4006)
Yen	192.05	(192.07)
£ Index	103.3	(103.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0716*	(1.0804)
SFr	1.4970*	(1.4850)
Yen	119.04*	(118.73)
$ index	108.3	(107.9)

Tokyo close Yen 118.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$15.00	(n/a)

GOLD

London close	$282.65	($283.25)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

Electra shock as 3i's bid vote is defeated

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRA Investment Trust last night beat off the hostile takeover approach from rival venture manager 3i.

The sometimes bitter tussle for control ended as shareholders voted to accept a wind-up plan put to them by the Electra board.

Electra won by a narrow margin. To survive as an independent it needed to win 75 per cent support of its shareholders. It won 76.15 per cent support of those shareholders voting.

3i made it a condition of its bid that the Electra buyback plan should be voted down. However, some observers were suggesting last night that the battle may not end here.

Questions have been raised about the late purchases of a 1.5 per cent stake in Electra. Since that stake was larger than than Electra's winning margin, the propriety of the purchase could be called into question.

The result of the vote came after the the stock market closed. However, before the result was known, 3i shares rose by 30½p, to 689p.

At this price the 3i cash and share offer would have been worth 764p per Electra share. This is 200p more than the price at which Electra shares were trading prior to the opening of bid activity, but below the 786p price at which Electra has promised to buy back up to 40 per cent of its shares.

The theoretic value of the 3i offer is also some way behind the 915p asset value which the Electra board said was the underlying true value of trust shares.

The rise in 3i shares came before the result of the poll was known. Some attributed the rise to the fact that 3i seemed likely to win and be strengthened by Electra. Others suggested that the price rose on the belief that 3i would fail in its attempt, and not be burdened with the debt required to undertake the purchase.

Michael Stoddard, the chairman of Electra, said: "I am delighted that Electra shareholders have supported the board's proposals. The board will now implement the tender offer and is confident that it will deliver enhanced value for shareholders into the future."

At yesterday's shareholder meeting called to discuss and vote on the proposals, Mr Stoddart indicated that the trust may continue to exist permanently — if there was sufficient investor interest.

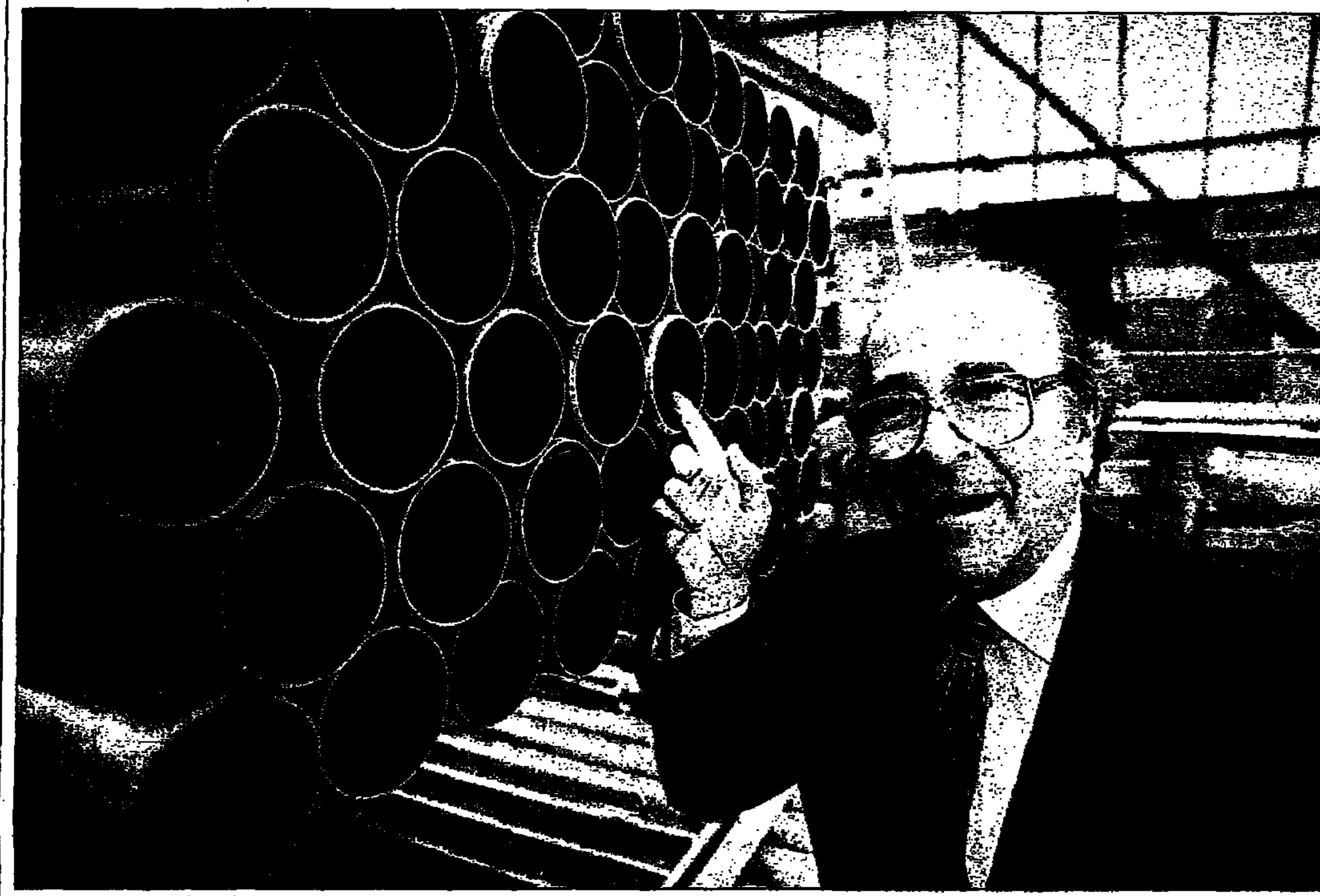
The stated, and now approved, plan is to buy back up to 40 per cent of the shares at 786p and then execute what Mr Stoddart said would be an "orderly" liquidation of the trust over the next five years.

The official plan involved a series of buybacks, funded by borrowings and sustained by asset disposals. The aim was to continue with the process until Electra disappeared.

However, Mr Stoddart indicated yesterday that if it became apparent that all shareholders who wanted a cash exit had been satisfied, and remaining shareholders wanted to continue to participate, then Electra could continue to trade permanently.

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IMI deal gives Polypipe chief £70m



Kevin McDonald, a former plumbing teacher, will receive £70 million from the £337 million sale of his Polypipe plastic fittings business to IMI

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

A MAN who began a plastic fittings business 35 years ago in a small back room in Doncaster and later created the Polypipe plumbing group is to receive £70 million after selling up to IMI, the engineering group.

Kevin McDonald, executive chairman of Polypipe, yesterday announced that he is selling, for £337 million in cash, the plastic piping and plumbing supplies group that he built up. He will become a non-executive director of IMI.

Mr McDonald, formerly a plumbing teacher, created Polypipe in 1980 from his Bartol Plastics firm to try to undercut existing plastic fittings manufacturers. He floated the company five years later at a market value of £11 million.

A keen grouse shot, Mr McDonald, 65, has been described by members of his board as a "benevolent dictator". Still a resident of Yorkshire and married with two young children, he is a close friend of Barry Pointon, an executive director of IMI.

Bid talks between the two boards are believed to have taken only three weeks to complete. Geoffrey Harrison, a business partner of Mr McDonald and a non-executive director of Polypipe, will make £10 million from the sale.

IMI's 200p-a-share offer is 27 per cent above Polypipe's closing price on Tuesday. Polypipe, which had 193 employees at flotation and now has 3,000, last year reported pre-tax profits of £35 million.

Trevor Slack, IMI finance director, said: "This deal isn't about huge cost savings in the traditional sense. It's about leveraging growth through our existing network, opening up new markets and using Polypipe's technical expertise and new product innovation."

City Deal to shed 180 jobs

BY MARTIN WALLER

CITY DEAL SERVICES, a private client stockbroker owned by Abbey National, has been forced to transfer most of its business to a rival firm. The move will cost the jobs of 180 at its office in Romford, Essex.

City Deal, an execution-only broker, was bought by Abbey along with Cater Allen, the moneybroker, in 1997. A spokeswoman said the redundancies would follow the outsourcing of order processing to Pershing Securities.

"The planned growth of City Deal's business means that the existing infrastructure and systems are not capable of handling higher volumes of business," she said.

Graeme Dart, City Deal's IT director, said: "The best way for us to grow our business and to deliver the infrastructure required is through the outsource."

ICI makes disposals of £1.7bn to Huntsman

BY PAUL DURMAN

ICI yesterday took an important step towards completing its transformation into a specialty chemicals company when it confirmed £1.7 billion of disposals to Huntsman, America's largest family-owned chemicals group.

Some analysts were surprised that ICI has sold its well-regarded polyurethanes business as well as Tioxide, which makes a white pigment used in paints and paper, and a group of loss-making petrochemicals businesses.

ICI will only receive £1.3 billion of cash this year and it will initially retain a 30 per cent stake in Huntsman ICI, a company comprising the disposed businesses and Huntsman's propylene oxide operation.

Martin Evans, head of research at Sutherlands, the broker, said: "It's a move in the right direction but it's still saddled with loss-making commodity chemicals and a high level of net debt, and it's given away or sold a quite good business in polyurethanes."

Charles Miller Smith, ICI's chief executive, insisted the group had achieved "very good" prices. However, the £1.05 billion that Huntsman is paying for polyurethanes represents a multiple of 11.7 times, and the £500 million price for Tioxide is £100 million less than ICI agreed with DuPont and NL Industries last year, before those deals were scuppered by competition concerns.

Mr Miller Smith, who is focusing ICI on starch, fragrances and flavours and paints, said: "We believe we are in the home straight in the journey to change the character of ICI." Shares in ICI rose 23½p to 659p yesterday - still barely half the price they reached last May.

Jon Huntsman, a highly-regarded chemicals industry veteran who has built a $7 billion business from scratch in 16 years, said he was "absolutely not" interested in taking Huntsman public because commodity chemicals companies would always be poorly rated because investors and analysts. The businesses ICI is selling employ 6,000, 1,900 in the UK. Mr Huntsman said his company had never laid off a worker and needed ICI's managers and experienced people.

ICI will have to make £195 million of provisions to cover pension, environmental and other costs. It will also incur another £65 million of costs from cutting its corporate overheads.

Commentary 29

Dispute looms on C&W bid

BY ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND CHRIS AYRES

A DISPUTE over protectionism looks likely to erupt between Britain and Japan after a decision by International Digital Communications (IDC), the Japanese telephone company, to reject a £327 million takeover bid from Cable & Wireless, the UK group.

IDC's board instead voted to accept an almost identical offer by Japan's domestic telephone company, NTT. The decision will be seen as an embarrassment for Japan's Government — a controlling shareholder in NTT — which is committed to liberalising its telecoms industry.

Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, has told the Japanese Government that "a successful bid from NTT will raise the issue of competition and regulatory policy in Japan".

Glotel stock flotation to net Baker £50m



Andy Baker, who founded Glotel ten years ago with Les Clark

BY JASON NISSE

A 33-YEAR-OLD computer personnel tycoon is set to make about £50 million from the flotation of his company in the next few weeks.

Andy Baker founded Glotel just ten years ago when he left Hestair, the recruitment arm of the conglomerate BET. He and his boss at Hestair — Les Clark — decided to set up a specialist telecommunications and information technology recruitment firm and the company now employs 245 people in the UK, US and Australia.

Both Mr Baker and Mr Clark — who is 54 — each own 50 per cent of Glotel, though they intend to cut their stake on flotation and give up to 5 per cent of the company to staff.

The business is expected to come to market through a placing by HSBC Securities, the broker, which this week issued a glowing investment report predicting the company would record revenue in the year to March 31 of £101 million and profit of £4.4 million. On the basis of valuations achieved by similar firms, this would put the worth of Glotel at between £100 million and £150 million.

MSB, which is in the same market, was valued at more than £200 million at its peak but has suffered because of the departure of its founder, Mark Goldberg, and Mr Goldberg's decision to sell his shares to fund his disastrous purchase of Crystal Palace Football Club.

Robert Walters, the IT and banking recruitment group, was sold to StaffMark of the US for £110 million last summer. Its founder — of the same name — picked up £26.5 million in the deal.

Glotel has strengthened its board ahead of the float, bringing in Chris Adkins, the former finance director of Sherwood Computers, and two non-executives — Glyn Hirsch, chief executive of CLS Holdings, the property group, and Robin Saxby, chairman or ARM Holdings, the computer chip company.

Mr Baker did not want to speak to *The Times* about his impending good fortune.

Channel ferry deal boosts tunnel

By Fraser Nelson

EUROTUNNEL has managed to pull off its sharpest ever price increases — thanks to the merger of P&O and Stena's cross-channel ferry services.

Drivers taking their cars through the tunnel were charged £109 for a five-day return ticket in the first three months of the year, a 56 per cent increase on 1998.

Eurotunnel said this was made possible by similar price increases imposed by the newly merged P&O and Stena Line cross-channel service. The ferry operators' five-day peak return has risen by 25 per cent this year, to £195.

The number of cars carried by Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle subsidiary rose by 4.4 per cent, in spite of the higher charges. Eurotunnel said: "We had to compete with unrealistic price promotions, and prices are now getting back to normal."

The price of an ecomony return for drivers peaked at £328 in the summer of 1996, but fell as drivers defected to the ferries.

Eurotunnel intends to push the price of an open return to £239, from £190, this summer.

Eurotunnel owns the tunnel, and runs the short-haul Le Shuttle operation. It takes access charges from Eurostar, the separately owned passenger train service.





Seascope Shipping Holdings, where Tom Young, left, is chairman, and Duncan Hill is chief executive designate, has fought off the impact of the Asian economic crisis to report a 13.3 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £3.5 million. A final dividend of 10p was declared, making 15p for the year (3p).

British Midland profits slump despite rise in passengers

By Arthur Leathley
Aviation Correspondent

BRITISH MIDLAND, the UK's second-biggest scheduled airline, saw profits slump by a third last year despite attracting record numbers of passengers.

Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, reported that yields had fallen under the "aggressive challenge" from low-cost carriers as well as being hit by the drop in business travel.

Though this saw pre-tax profits fall to £11 million from £16.7 million the privately owned carrier reported a 5 per cent growth in passenger numbers, to six million. That helped achieve a record turnover of £558 million.

Sir Michael said that the fall in profits was due largely to the £4.5 million "windfall" in the prior year when the company took advantage of the 1997 British Airways strike.

He said that a further £4 million had been set aside this year in losses in challenging the British Airways monopoly on the Heathrow-Manchester route. The airline claims to have secured more than 330,000 passengers on the route.

British Midland is setting its sights on breaking into the transatlantic market when the US and British Governments sign a bilateral agreement to open up air services between the two countries. It has been granted licences to serve New York, Washington, Boston and Miami.

Aer Lingus, another company battling against the budget operators, yesterday reported a sharp rise in profits.

The Irish national airline said that its heavily contested Dublin-London route proved a significant contributor to the success. The company's pre-tax profit of £46.6 million for 1998 was up 14 per cent, while the passenger total increased by 10 per cent, to 5.8 million.

McNulty appointed to oversee sale of air traffic control

MINISTERS last night increased the momentum towards the sale of the air traffic control service by appointing a new chairman to oversee the partial sell-off. John Prescott appointed Sir Roy McNulty, chairman of Shorts, as chairman of National Air Traffic Services. Government officials said that the partial sale of NATS would take place during the two-and-a-half-year period of his tenure, which is due to last until October 2002. It was originally thought that the sale of 51 per cent of NATS would raise £500 million, but John Reid, the Transport Minister, has said that a delayed sale may be needed to achieve the best price. Commentary, page 29

Vodafone free call move

By Chris Ayres

THE mobile phone industry is poised for a vicious price war, with Vodafone, Britain's largest mobile phone company, revealing yesterday that it would give more free calls to customers and cut its peak-time call rates.

The move follows the announcement of aggressive price cuts by One 2 One, Vodafone's smaller rival, earlier this week. One 2 One has also radically reorganised its so-called "pre-pay" tariffs — which involve customers paying for calls with vouchers instead of signing-up to long term contracts — by cutting call prices, and introducing a "daily charge", starting at 50p.

In response, Vodafone will give 250 minutes of free calls subscribers to its £14.99-a-month service instead of 180. At the same time, the company will reduce peak-time calls rates on many other tariffs.

Cellnet and Orange, Britain's other two mobile phone operators, have not responded to Vodafone and One 2 One's price cuts. Orange said that through its "value promise" offer, it would match tariffs offered by any rival.

☐ Vodafone yesterday paid £22 million for MC Mobile Service Communications, the small mobile phone service provider owned by Cable & Wireless Communications. Vodafone also signed a deal with CWC which will see them offer "integrated" phone services.

Off-roaders give Ford a lift

From Adam Jones, in New York

THE growing popularity of off-road vehicles among Americans has helped Ford and General Motors to weather tough markets in Europe.

Ford said yesterday that operating profits for the first three months of 1999 were $1.81 billion (£1.12 billion), up 20 per cent on last year and ahead of analysts' forecast.

Sales in the UK, Ford's biggest foreign market, dropped from 142,000 vehicles to 126,000 in the period. This was despite the introduction of the Focus, the successor to the Escort. The purchase of Volvo and the growth of the Jaguar subsidiary may mean that Ford's plans to introduce the Lincoln luxury range into Europe will be shelved.

John Devine, chief financial officer, fuelled speculation that Ford will make Visteon, its parts subsidiary, a stand-alone company.

GM is already cutting loose its Delphi parts arm, which is now free to use its independence to tie-up big supply agreements with other carmakers.

Mr Devine admitted Visteon risked being left behind.

GM, which owns Vauxhall and Opel in Europe, said net profits were $2.1 billion in the first three months of 1999, up from $1.6 billion in 1998. Market share in Europe fell from 9.8 per cent to 9.6 per cent but GM said new models, such as the Vauxhall Zafira, would improve the situation.

Tourist rates

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.63	2.45
Austria Sch	21.59	19.93
Belgium Fr	63.55	58.59
Canada $	2.539	2.351
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9095	0.8380
Denmark Kr	11.71	10.82
Egypt	5.73	5.12
Finland Mkk	9.45	8.70
France Fr	10.28	9.50
Germany Dm	3.090	2.848
Greece Dr	511	472
Hong Kong $	13.37	12.17
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17584	12584
Ireland Pt	1.2329	1.1439
Israel Shk	6.88	6.22
Italy Lira	3073	2836
Japan Yen	207.20	189.67
Malta	0.676	0.617
Netherlds Gld	3.488	3.193
New Zealand $	3.12	2.88
Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Portugal Esc	312.50	290.47
S Africa Rd	10.48	9.52
Spain Pta	260.44	241.65
Sweden Kr	14.16	13.06
Switzerland Fr	2.554	2.336
Turkey Lira	632659	590608
USA $	1.725	1.582

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques.

Brands Hatch chief raises the stakes with letter over restructuring

Silverstone battle moves up a gear

By Jason Nissé

NICOLA FOULSTON, chief executive of Brands Hatch Leisure, has intensified the battle over the future of Silverstone with an open letter to members of the British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) which owns the racetrack.

The letter — published today in the motor sport press — opposes many parts of the proposed restructuring of the club, which is expected to lead to a flotation of Silverstone.

Members will vote on the restructuring next week against the background of Brands Hatch indicating that it would bid about £50 million for Silverstone if the BRDC wanted to sell it.

The restructuring, put together by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, would allow the BRDC to own the freehold of Silverstone but lease it to a separate, newly created company, controlled by the BRDC.

Ms Foulston's letter opposes the clauses in the restructuring that would give a golden share in the new company to the BRDC board. She says this would restrict the rights of individual shareholders. She then calls for the BRDC to sell Silverstone to Brands Hatch, which owns the Kent racetrack of the same name.

A BRDC spokesman said he was glad Ms Foulston broadly supported the restructuring but added: "Silverstone is worth more than the current market value of Brands Hatch." Yesterday that stood at £70 million.

The waters have been muddied further by the intervention of Bernie Ecclestone, the entrepreneur who controls Formula 1 motor racing. He has said that he supports Ms Foulston's bid and would only keep the British Grand Prix at Silverstone if the track is sold to Brands Hatch.

The contract to host the Grand Prix runs until 2001, but Mr Ecclestone can tear up the deal if the BRDC sells the racetrack. He has indicated that if anyone other than Brands Hatch bought Silverstone, he would merely move the race to Brands Hatch.



Foulston: opposes parts of plan

Business roundup

BCC sees recovery for the economy

THE economy is poised for recovery, with confidence in both the manufacturing and services sector improving rapidly, according to a new report yesterday. The British Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey also reported a marked improvement in the export position, with the service sector returning to growth while manufacturing exports declined at a much slower rate than in previous quarters.

However, the BCC cautioned that the overall health of the economy remains fragile, with manufacturing domestic sales declining at their fastest rate for six years during the first quarter. Unemployment is also beginning to rise more rapidly, with manufacturers shedding staff at the fastest rate for six years, while service sector job creation has also slowed sharply. Ian Peters, the deputy director-general of the BCC, said that with costs pressures remaining subdued, the Bank of England should make another quarter reduction in rates as soon as possible to aid the recovery. He added that the Bank was aware of the BCC findings ahead of last week's Monetary Policy Committee meeting when the Bank made its latest rate cut.

Cadbury US purchase

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the group which earlier this year agreed to sell all its soft drinks operations outside of the US for £1.14 billion, bought Hawaiian Punch, America's favourite fruit punch, yesterday for £126 million. It is buying the juice-based, non-fizzy drink from Procter & Gamble and it will be managed and distributed by Cadbury Schweppes's Dr Pepper/Seven Up operations. John Sunderland, chief executive, said: "The acquisition emphasises our commitment to the important US soft drink market."

Scotia scraps drug

SHARES in Scotia Holdings fell by almost 10 per cent yesterday after it abandoned work on its drug to treat pancreatic cancer. Scrapping Glamolec means that Scotia has failed with three products that it filed for regulatory approval — a failure rate far in excess of the industry norm. The apparently advanced state of Scotia's drug portfolio gave the company a £600 million valuation three years ago. Yesterday its shares fell 13p to 126p, valuing it at just under £100 million. Scotia withdrew Glamolec from regulators' consideration last year.

Terranova's KFC deal

TERRANOVA, the foods group subject to a £229 million hostile takeover offer from Unigate, said yesterday that its Buxted Foods subsidiary had won a £9 million-a-year contract from KFC, the fast-food group. The deal is to supply to KFC a "new menu item" that will be launched during the summer. Paul Lewis, Terranova's chairman, said: "This example of Terranova's success in the important food service market reinforces our belief that Unigate's hostile bid significantly undervalues the company."

PacifiCorp's £111m sale

PACIFICORP, ScottishPower's planned takeover target in the US, is to sell a £111 million business. Its electric service area in California is to go to Nor-Cal Electric Authority. ScottishPower said it had known about the sale when it launched its bid for PacifiCorp. The offer is currently facing regulatory investigation. The sale of PacifiCorp's Californian business will be completed next year. This is subject to a separate regulatory inquiry.

Sega launch date

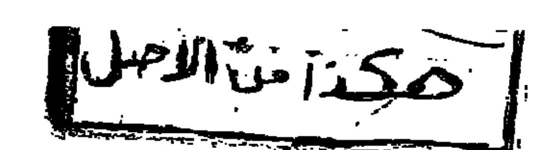
SEGA, the Japanese video games company, is to launch its new Dreamcast games console on September 23, priced at £199. Sega hopes that the product — which it claims is the "most powerful video game console ever created" — will hit sales of Sony's PlayStation. The Dreamcast is four times more powerful than the PlayStation, and can access the Internet. However, Dreamcast consoles will be twice as expensive as PlayStation. Sony is developing a next-generation PlayStation, expected to be even faster than the Dreamcast.

Deloitte on the up

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, one of the big five accountants, claimed yesterday that its fee levels are set to grow by nearly a third this year. John Connolly, who is today confirmed as the firm's new senior partner and chief executive in the UK, said: "Our growth rate continued to grow when the economy started struggling. We are running at over 30 per cent growth this year. We have never had results like this." He added that the audit division — often seen as the growth laggard in accounting firms — was growing at more than 20 per cent.

Richardson referred

NATIONAL DATA CORPORATION'S acquisition of John Richardson Computers, a supplier of software systems to retail pharmacies, has been referred to the Competition Commission. The acquisition, valued at £2.5 million, from the market research group Taylor Nelson Sofres, was found to have potential competition problems by Kim Howells, the Trade Minister. Dr Howells said, however, that these could be waived as long as NDC did not inhibit pharmacies from supplying pharmaceutical data to parties other than NDC.



Fat cats vote for their own cream



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

So — by a margin reminiscent of last year's vote to keep Nationwide a building society — the board of Electra Investment Trust succeeded with its honey-covered poison pill defence to 3i's bid. Here we have a deal to wind up the trust, which betrays the worst elements of both the investment trust industry and the venture capital industry, voted through by the massed ranks of institutional investors whose taste buds moisten at the thought of the deal being handed to the team at Electra Fleming, which runs the trust.

For those who complain about fat cattery among our captains of industry — people who actually run businesses rather than move money from place to place — consider the £30 million bonus pool awaiting the Electra Fleming folk if they successfully wind up the trust. Or consider the fact that the "carried interest" element allowed in Electra transactions — that is the amount the managers are able to cream off for themselves — is increased from 5 per cent to 8 per cent. Imagine if your independent financial adviser tried to sell you an Isa with entry charge of 8 per cent and a cash bonus to the manager if the price rises. You would be running to the regulators faster than you could say "Financial Services Authority".

Yet this is all so commonplace in the venture capital industry. Entry charges, management charges, exit charges, carried interest and sweet equity abound. Deals are done at prices few can believe, leveraged to the hilt and resold at a premium to the market. The venture capitalists argue that they still deliver a better return than conventional active fund managers. Well, that is like saying your football team plays better than Nottingham Forest. Has no-one noticed that investors are so disenchanted with active fund managers that they are flocking to low-cost, reliable, tracker funds.

The mood of the small investors attending yesterday's meeting was that they did not really want to see Electra sold to 3i, but neither did they want Electra to wind itself up. They appeared happy with the absolute returns Electra has generated during its 23-year life and despite the threat of the net asset value discount that afflicts all investment trusts — apart from 3i — seemed happy to persist with their Electra investment.

However the institutions wanted cash and cash they will get. Michael Stoddart, Electra's chairman, said there may be a continuation fund if there is enough demand. Meanwhile small investors will have to make do with what the City says is good for them.

But Mr Stoddart, if investment trusts have a role, it is to serve small investor needs and the needs of smaller investors that do not have their own in-house private equity expertise. It would be as well for managers not to forget this demand. It could be the only demand they have to live off if current trends in the investment trust industry persist.

Withholding tax is the new poll tax

John Prescott hit just the right note in Parliament on Wednesday. He transposed the planned EU withholding tax on investment income with the poll tax. If only Gordon Brown could see priorities so clearly.

Both levies were logically thought out and for the best motives. Poll tax made local electors put their money where their votes were. The withholding tax aims to stop German and other government revenues being threatened by hordes of investors drawing income gross from abroad, usually Luxembourg, and illegally failing to declare it.

Both taxes, equally, have potential side-effects so bad that they must be ruled out completely. They include wiping out the London eurobond trade, which was born because of restrictive taxes in America and would in turn migrate to Zurich or whichever other centre resists EU bullying. But there is time to avoid repeating the poll tax mistakes with the withholding tax.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, thinks it could take until June to agree a final compromise deal. Mr Brown could resolve it today, at the start of the EU finance ministers meeting in Dresden, if he is serious about protecting the financial services from the sort of cave-ins that destroyed our fishing and motor industries. Sadly, the City will have little confidence in its Chancellor.

After Mr Prescott's somewhat oblique response to the withholding tax question, Downing Street explained that "it's a tax on savings and we are against it." Coming from a Government that has slapped a new £5 billion-a-year tax on pension savings and re-introduced tax on capital gains from inflation, this is not convincing. Nor is Mr Brown's pledge that he will agree to nothing that would "seriously" harm the City.

Compromise is in the air. A German proposal would exempt interest on holding above about £27,000. Mario Monti, the outgoing Tax Commissioner, rightly points out that this would be unfair and, rather worse, invite huge distortions.

Under lumbering EU procedures, they could not easily be corrected later. Any arbitrary or inflexible distinctions are bound to become nonsense as rapidly as financial markets evolve. At the last EU summit, our Government insisted on keeping our rebate when it could safely have been offered as part of wide reform. The City, like others, is likely to pay the price because, John Prescott apart, ministers will always put image before business.

Over and out time for NATS

Meanwhile in another part of Prescottland, Tony Blair's answer to Cardinal Wolsey was appointing a new chairman for National Air Traffic Services. Sir Roy McNulty is no doubt a fine choice. An Irishman who qualified as an accountant in Scotland and went on to run Shorts in Belfast before selling it to Bombardier of Canada, he understands finance, aerospace, wheeling and dealing and, most importantly, how to sell the family silver to foreigners.

However his role at NATS is not to sell the family silver. It is to flog a sickly — if not indeed already dead — horse.

Consider the evidence. NATS has an ageing air traffic control centre which is close to being swamped by the amount of traffic it needs to handle. The computers in this centre would no doubt be familiar to Charles Babbage and if they are Y2K compliant it is probably because they were built before the bug was thought of. NATS is in the process of building a new traffic control centre. But its technology partner, Lockheed Martin, has been slower than a week in jail and the costs have spiralled.

Meanwhile Gordon Brown thinks NATS is a jewel worth £500 million for Treasury coffers and wants to privatise it. The Deputy Prime Minister appears not to be sure this is a good idea.

He has no doubt told Sir Roy to have an open mind. This may be code for "give me an excuse to kill this privatisation". One hopes so.

Costly experiment

ICI PAID so much for Unilever's chemicals businesses that the foods group thought it best to return the money to shareholders rather than attempt the Herculean task of earning a better return. The resulting debt has now forced ICI to be a seller of other businesses at what some think is not exactly the optimum time. Changing your portfolio of businesses to give steadier growth potential is fine. Unfortunately, selling what others are selling and buying what others are buying tends to be a costly process.

Booker secures refinancing plan with banks

By Fraser Nelson

STUART ROSE, the chief executive of Booker, has agreed a £650 million refinancing package with its 21 banks — removing the threat of receivership that has been hanging over the company for the past four months.

The struggling cash and carry company has agreed to pay a sharply higher interest rate on its £550 million of borrowings. In return, it retains its £650 million overdraft limit and has two years to return to financial health.

Mr Rose said: "Our banking facilities were due for renewal, and the risk was that the banks might say: 'sorry guys, we don't want to lend you more money'.

"The fact that it has taken four months to resolve shows how serious the situation was. But we've now agreed a deal until 2001."

Shares of Booker fell 1p to 64p yesterday as analysts said the company still has everything to prove. One said: "At least it's not going to go bust, but Stuart Rose is firefighting, and he's still got a tough task ahead of him."

Mr Rose said the company will take a further £50 million hit this year, through goodwill writedowns and about £20 million for rationalisation.

The company will now sell five of its six divisions, raising an estimated £200 million.

It hopes to sell Booker Food Services and Abor Acres in the next few months. Its other divisions — Marine Harvest McConnell fish farming and the Booker Tate and Fletcher Smith sugar businesses — should go towards the end of the year.

Mr Rose told analsyts that he had a two-phase plan to rejuvinate its 187 cash and carry stores. The first will be an efficiency drive, involving an overhaul of internal management and possibly more job losses to add to the 200 already going at head office.

It will then give its product range a complete revamp, introducing new lines of meat, chilled food and ethnic foods.

Mr Rose said: "We sell to 370,000 caterers and 120,000 shopkeepers, and we are turning them away because we don't stock what they want. Yet we sell eight brands of Garibaldi biscuits when we could happily get by with three."

Booker made a £90.8 million loss for the six months to December 26 against a £68.7 million profit last time. Underlying profit dropped to £11.3 million (£54.1 million).

The company spent £1.3 million on lawyers and advisers' fees during its abortive merger talks with Somerfield and Budgens and took a £13.2 million charge to cover redundancies. As its year end is changed to March 31, the figures were a second set of interim results.



Reflecting well: Arild Nerdrum, chairman of Caverdale, the motorcycle, bicycle and leisure marine group, reported a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6 million for 1998. A final dividend of 2.25p was declared, making 4.5p (4p) for the year

Arnault seeks Gucci deal with Pinault

By Fraser Nelson

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has broken off takeover talks with Gucci and has said he will now try to strike his own deal with Francois Pinault, his rival suitor for the Italian fashion house.

M Arnault accused Gucci of using spoiling tactics which would make any successful bid "impossible."

He will now try to bypass Gucci's board by entering discussions with M Pinault, who acquired 42 per cent of Gucci's shares last month to help it to fend off LVMH's advances.

LVMH said: "We have given Gucci a variety of takeover options in good faith. They tell us they can't sort out Pinault, so we will go to Pinault ourselves."

Gucci said that LVMH was using more delaying tactics and has never produced a formal offer.

M Arnault could win control of Gucci with the support of its three largest investors: M Pinault, Tom Ford, its senior designer, and Templeton Fund, the institutional investor. They own 50.2 per cent of Gucci between them — enough to secure a hostile takeover without the consent of Gucci's board.

☐ ICOLLECTOR, the Internet auction house which is M Arnault's latest investment, said yesterday its losses last year more than doubled to £1.15 million. The Ofex-traded company competes with Christie's, the auction house owned by M Pinault. It said the loss was the expected result of its heavy investment.

Stadium gives farewell boost to Wembley

By Jason Nissé

A HOMELESS Welsh rugby team and an Arsenal football team constrained by home ground capacity helped Wembley Stadium to contribute £13.9 million to Wembley plc in its final year in the listed group's ownership.

The Welsh used Wembley for two home matches because their new national stadium was not finished and Arsenal used it for three European games. The company made an estimated profit of £500,000 on each of these matches.

The stadium was earlier this year sold for £103 million to a trust backed by the Football Association, provoking a dispute within Wembley's board as three non-executive directors, Jarvis Astaire, Peter Mead and Michael Stoddard, campaigned to stop the deal.

Claes Hultman, Wembley chairman, said that the three were now going to resign and would be replaced. "It was a disagreement on strategy and the shareholders did not agree with them," he said yesterday.

Proceeds from the stadium sale are to be distributed to shareholders, and Wembley is seeking the most tax-efficient way of doing this.

The stadium's strong performance — plus the success of video lottery games at the racetrack Wembley owns at Lincoln, Rhode Island — led to a 7.6 per cent rise in profits, before tax and one-off items, to £26.8 million.

The pre-tax total, swollen by an £8.38 million surplus on property revaluation, came in at £35.2 million.

However, a much higher tax bill led to earnings per share falling 21.8 per cent, to 31.3p, on an adjusted basis.

A 3.5p final dividend makes 5.5p (3p). Wembley shares rose 10p to 340½p.

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Russell slides as RMC talks fail

By Robert Lea

SHARES of Alexander Russell, a quarrying and concrete products group based in Lanarkshire, dived yesterday after the company said that it had called off talks with RMC, the industry leader and its biggest shareholder.

The collapse of the negotiations are likely to have saved about 100 administration jobs at the company's headquarters in Uddingstone, Glasgow.

Alexander Russell said that after ten weeks of negotiations aimed at achieving a recommended offer for the company, its board had been unable to reach agreement with RMC, which was interested in acquiring the 75 per cent of the company that it did not own.

While there has been speculation that venture capital firms may also be interested in making an offer for Russell, Graeme Nicolson, the company's managing director, said: "The board confirms that no discussions have been taking place with any other party."

That was enough to push stock in the £30 million company down sharply, falling 25p to 112½p. The bid speculation had seen the shares rise sharply from 68½p at the turn of the year.

Reed Elsevier's job hunt widens

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing and information group seeking a new chief executive has expanded its shortlist after the end of talks with the Simon & Schuster chief executive, Jonathan Newcomb.

The shortlist was effectively frozen in January while detailed talks continued with Mr Newcomb, who has lost half his empire through the sale of Simon & Schuster education and business publishing to Pearson.

Since January, a number of possible candidiates have become free to be considered, it is believed. Even if Mr Newcomb had agreed to become chief executive of Reed Elsevier, he would not have been free to join it immediately.

Reed Elsevier is optimistic that there will not be extra delays in getting the new person in place.

Morris Tabaksblat, the retiring head of Unilever who will become non-executive chairman of Reed Elsevier in June, declined to say after its annual meeting yesterday how many people were on the shortlist, other than to say: "It's a relatively small group we are talking to."

Bus pair to run Northern Leisure

By Dominic Walsh

ADAM MILLS and Ray McEnhill, the pair who floated the National Express bus and coach group in 1992, are to take the helm at Northern Leisure, the nightclub operator.

Northern Leisure, which last month admitted "exploring strategic opportunities", is in talks to acquire Fife Group, the former engineering concern that the two men have turned into a shell with about £11 million in cash. Their plan is to develop Northern as a significant player in the wider leisure sector.

Shares in Fife Group, formerly Fife Indmar, rose 5½p to 66½p after it confirmed that it had received an approach from Northern "that may or may not lead to an offer being made".

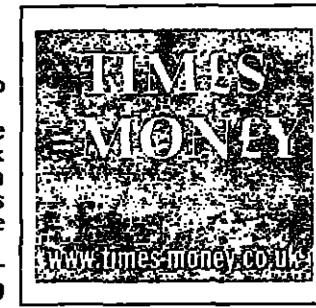
At that level, Fife is valued at £13.8 million, while Northern, which rose 8½p to 145½p, is worth £180 million.

A Fife spokeswoman said: "The pair have aspirations to move further in the sector, which is very fragmented and ripe for consolidation. They would like to play a role in that consolidation."

Although talks are still at a preliminary stage, it is understood that Northern is planning to issue new shares to fund the acquisition of Fife.

The two men are expected to become joint chief executives, allowing Nick Oppenheim, Northern's vice-chairman and 12 per cent shareholder, to fulfil his wish to step down to non-executive status.

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STOCK MARKET | SAEED SHAH

Speculators scent bid in Asda's remarkable run

ASDA, the supermarket operator, has had a remarkable run in the past few days, yesterday adding 10.8 per cent to 176½p. This made it the biggest riser in the FTSE 100 and the most heavily traded, with 38.97 million shares changing hands.

The company attributed the rise to its briefing sessions with analysts ahead of going into its closed season. However, the sharp jump in the price shortly before the close of trading left some observers questioning whether there was more to it.

Some said the trading resembled that of a predator rather than fund managers. They pointed to American giant Wal-Mart as the most likely suitor.

Asda shares were also helped by the latest Taylor Nelson Sofres food retailing survey, which is understood to show Asda outperforming competitors in gaining market share.

Investec Henderson Crosthwaite advises clients to sell **J Sainsbury**, 5½p better at 375p ahead of a trading statement today, to avoid **Safeway**, 6¼p off at 255¼p and to buy Asda. **Tesco**, 2¼p down at 167¼p, and **Morrison Supermarkets**, 9½p worse at 296p. HSBC Securities was also advising clients to buy Asda and Morrison.

Wal-Mart has also been linked to a possible bid for **MFI Furniture**, 7p higher at 49½p, as has **Kingfisher**, up 10p to 875p, and Ikea, the Swedish furniture company. Analysts say that any buyer may be interested in its property portfolio rather than its furniture business.

Following an overnight lead from New York, it was the turn of the recently unfashionable sectors, such as chemicals and engineering, to take some of the limelight, as investors hunted for value in stocks that had been oversold. But this was not enough to stop the FTSE 100 index closing down 27.7 points at 6,466.1.

The hunt for bargains pushed up the second-liners again, with the FTSE 250 index finishing 69.8 points higher at 5,707.3.

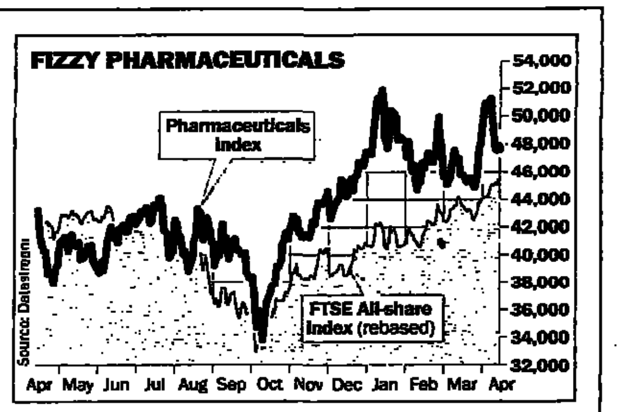
The improved economic outlook, especially the steadying of Asian markets and the improvements in commodity prices — up 12 per cent this year — has made investors look again at cyclicals.



Demonstrators outside the BP AGM were protesting against oil exploration in Alaska. BP shares gained 40p to £10.72½

The mining sector was 9.7 per cent up, with **Billiton**, climbing 18p to 187½p, and **Rio Tinto**, 92½p better at £10.04, the second and third-best risers in the FTSE 100. **Lonmin** also rose 39½p to 505½p.

Oil and gas also showed healthy gains. **BG** rose 12½p to 360½p. **BP Amoco** was up 40p to £10.72½ and **Lasmo** gained 19¼p to 139¾p, boosted by talk that Goldman Sachs is in the market to buy some five million shares on behalf of a client. Another leading institution is also understood to be trying to build up its holdings in the oil company. Analysts say that Lasmo may soon strike a deal on its Dacion field in Venezuela, either with an equity partner or through some form of asset swap.



Pharmaceutical stocks have lagged the market this year amid a lack of merger activity after 1998's flurry. Glaxo Welcome, 113p weaker at £18.85, and SmithKline Beecham, 42½p down at 846½p, were victims yesterday of the switch out of growth shares into cyclical stocks. With pharmaceuticals accounting for 10.5 per cent of London equities on a weighted basis, they were a major reason for the market's drop.

However, Commerzbank, for one, has put a buy recommendation on both stocks, saying further industry consolidation was inevitable. Commerzbank continues to see Glaxo's preferred partner as SB.

However, AstaZeneca, 76p lighter at £26.50, appears to be on no one's shopping list. Despite hopes of a revival in the share price after the merger, investors have not forgotten the patent problems that prompted the merger in the first place. The index-related buying of the stock which management hoped would follow the merger has not materialised.

Spurred on by the deal from **ICI**, 23½p higher at 659p, to sell its commodity chemicals business to Huntsman, **BOC Group** gained 66p to £10.59 and **BTP** 19½p to 411½p, as the chemicals sector put on 3.7 per cent.

Even engineering benefited, by 4.4 per cent, as **BTR Siebe** powered 14½p to 299½p, **Morgan Crucible** 14p to 240½p and **Glynwed International** 18p to 219p.

Packaging raced ahead 7.6 per cent to be the best performing sector, with **Rexam** 16½p improved to 234p.

The conflict in the Balkans continued to help defence and aerospace stocks, with **British Aerospace** flying 17½p to 450p, **Smith Industries** rising 42p to 961p and **Rolls-Royce** up 7¾p to 280½p.

The improved prospects for the UK economy, as backed by yesterday's survey from the British Chambers of Commerce, has helped building and construction. **Hanson** rose 25p to 572½p. **Pilkington** gained 5p to 84½p helped by those ever-present bid rumours. **Blue Circle** advanced 27¼p to 381¾p. **Taylor Woodrow** put on 9½p to 189½p, **RMC Group**, 53p to 918p and **Jarvis**, 39½p to 478½p, helped by a settlement of a union dispute in its railway maintenance business.

Polypipe, the building materials manufacturer, gained 8½p on news of a £340 million takeover by IMI, 27p better at 299p.

The utilities, water and gas distribution in particular, gained from a retreat into safety after the prospects of high-growth stocks were questioned, with **Thames Water** rising 27½p to 915½p and **Severn Trent** up 21p to 840½p. HSBC Securities has advised clients to buy shares in the utilities after the sector has just suffered its worst-ever quarterly performance, underperforming the market by 17 per cent.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** European government bonds turned lower in closing trade, tracking losses in the Treasury market following the release of strong US data. UK issues suffered the biggest losses, as more evidence pointed to a return in confidence in the economy. The June series of the long gilt fell 87p to £117.08.

□ **NEW YORK:** US blue chips continued to be volatile as investors switched between them. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 35.24 points to 10,446.90.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	10446.90 (+35.24)
S&P Composite	1318.50 (-9.94)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	16727.08 (-37.60)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11962.23 (+128.10)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	542.20 (-1.40)
Sydney:	
AO	3094.5 (+6.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5181.01 (-1.15)
Singapore:	
Straits	1706.13 (+3.40)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3320.93 (-10.03)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4310.64 (-38.62)
Zurich:	
SMI Index	7234.1 (-144.1)
London:	
FT 30	4033.7 (+25.8)
FTSE 100	6466.1 (-27.5)
FTSE 250	5707.3 (+69.8)
FTSE 350	3079.2 (-5.2)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3000.70 (-18.62)
FTSE All-Share	2978.78 (-4.55)
FTSE Non Financials	2977.43 (-2.82)
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.83 (-0.64)
FTSE Govt Secs	111.03 (-3.09)
Bargains	93547
SEAQ Volume	1280.4m
US$	1.6120 (-0.0050)
Euro	0.6653 (-0.0030)
£-SDR	1.1897
Exchange Index	103.3 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BGI Endowment III	103	.
Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95	...
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½	...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	112	+ 1
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	24½	+ 4½
Edinburgh Inc & Val	*105½*	...
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pf	102½	...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100¼	...
Gartmore High Income	107½	– ½
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	108½	...
Luminar Warrants	255	...
M Currie Cap Return	77	– ¼
M Currie Portfolio	81½	+ ¼
Mercury Asset Allocator	*107½*	...
Morse Holdings	233½	...
NBA Quantum	110	..
Sherry FitzGerald	147	...
Sports Internet	162½	+ 25
Triven VCT	100	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	2	– ¼
Mice Group n/p (80)	18	...
VersaliteBANIL (05)	1¼	.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Intelligent Env.	105	+ 20½	+ 24.2
VDC	175	+ 30	+ 20.6
Staffware	352½	+ 57½	+ 19.4
LASMO	139¾	+ 19¼	+ 15.9
Bowater Inc.	2993¾	+ 390⅝	+ 15.0
ASDA Group	176½	+ 17¼	+ 10.8
Caverdale	124	+ 11½	+ 10.2
Rio Tinto	1004	+ 92½	+ 10.1
Impala Plat.	1334⅜	+ 116⅝	+ 9.5
Jarvis	478½	+ 39½	+ 8.9
Rank Grp.	271¼	+ 21¾	+ 8.7
MR Group	145	+ 11½	+ 8.6
Premier Farnell	245	+ 17½	+ 7.6
Blue Circle	381¾	+ 27¼	+ 7.6
REXAM	234	+ 16½	+ 7.5
Schrod Korea	473	+ 32½	+ 7.3
Avis Europe	245	+ 16½	+ 7.2
RMC Gp.	918	+ 53	+ 6.1
Kier	227½	+ 12½	+ 5.8

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
London Pacific	432½	– 75	– 14.7
Xenova	107½	– 16½	– 13.3
Petra Diamonds	73½	– 10	– 11.9
Scotia	126	– 13	– 9.3
Ranger	251½	– 19¾	– 7.2
Dixons Grp	1387	– 84	– 5.7
Glaxo Well	1885	– 113	– 5.6

TEMPUS

Solid steel lacks lustre

SHARES of British Steel were up another 3.6 per cent yesterday. In the past month the stock has jumped nearly 28 per cent and the shares now stand at 155½p — the highest they have been for the best part of a year.

This, in many ways, is puzzling but can be explained. Several influential brokers have changed their stance on the stock. Investors have been encouraged to believe that the worst is behind BS. Bulls argue that the Asian woes are easing; that the outlook for steel prices is improving; that the recent cuts in UK interest rates must bring the value of the pound down eventually.

These factors may help, but equally it takes optimism to see genuine and sustainable growth in the Asia economies or to hope for a fall in the value of sterling. Moreover, the bull argument misses several other important issues. While BS has increased its prices this month, it is surely too early to say whether these will stick. In addition, if improvements do come, they will probably be too late to save the company from reporting big losses for last year and the current period. Those losses will erode the BS cash position and may even raise a question over the dividend. The Chancellor's new energy tax could be painful too. Perhaps £100 million of annual pain for BS.

There may be more to come from BS shares if and when the bull arguments materialise into hard fact. There is also the outside chance of a bid, perhaps from the US. That would make sense if the aim was to cut global capacity. But even if a deal comes, it may not get regulatory approval. Holders should hold the shares. But the obvious value story here, and the obvious buying opportuniuty, has been missed.

IMI

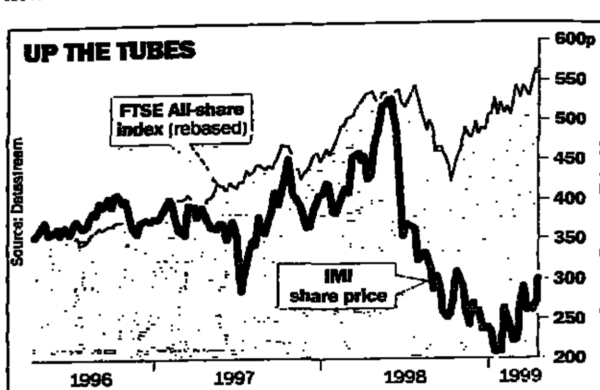
IMI's purchase of Polypipe makes a refreshing change. Here are two manufacturing companies, both somewhat stranded in the small company hole where so many find themselves ignored by the big guns of the investment community.

Yet instead of running to the arms of the voracious venture capitalists — and leave untapped value to be exploited by them — Polypipe management has given public investors the chance to maintain exposure to the company's potential by selling to another quoted company. IMI, for its part, can be congratulated for striving for share price improvement by finding growth opportunities — rather than indulging in purely financial engineering such as share buybacks.

Assuming the deal goes through — and barring the appearance of a rival buyer, the deal should be approved by Polypipe shareholders — the key challenge for the new IMI will be to haul itself free of smallcap ignominy.

With sales of £1.7 billion, operating profits of £200 million and a market capitialisation approaching £1.4 billion, new IMI will fall short of FTSE 100 membership and will struggle to establish a presence. Especially given the pricing pressures in so many of its markets.

But IMI deserves support. All but the most disillusioned Polypipe investors should reinvest at least some of the cash received for Polypipe stock in IMI. Others may care to take a holding too.



Wembley

AS BEFITS a company with two finance directors at its helm, Wembley figures are a wonder of the accountants' pen. Headline pre-tax profits for the group — which recently sold the stadium which gave the company its name — were £35.2 million last year. But take away one-off items and this falls to £26.8 million. Take away the profits from the stadium, and this falls further to £12.9 million.

Investors should then ask themselves whether the ongoing profit is sustainable. Its US track venues operation had operating profits of £17.3 million last year. A large part of this came from gaming at Lincoln, Rhode Island. The success of that is due to the fact there is precious little other gaming in New England. However, should the law change in Massachusetts, much of these profits will ebb away.

So what's left? There is £103 million of cash paid over on the sale of the stadium — which Wembley hopes to distribute in a tax-efficient way. There are also greyhound stadiums. The Keith Prowse event ticketing business is in there too, but is of variable profitability. And the 43 acres of land and property around the West London stadium has value, but is in desperate need of redevelopment.

Whether all this adds up to a company worth £189 million is open to serious question. Sell the shares.

Northern Leisure

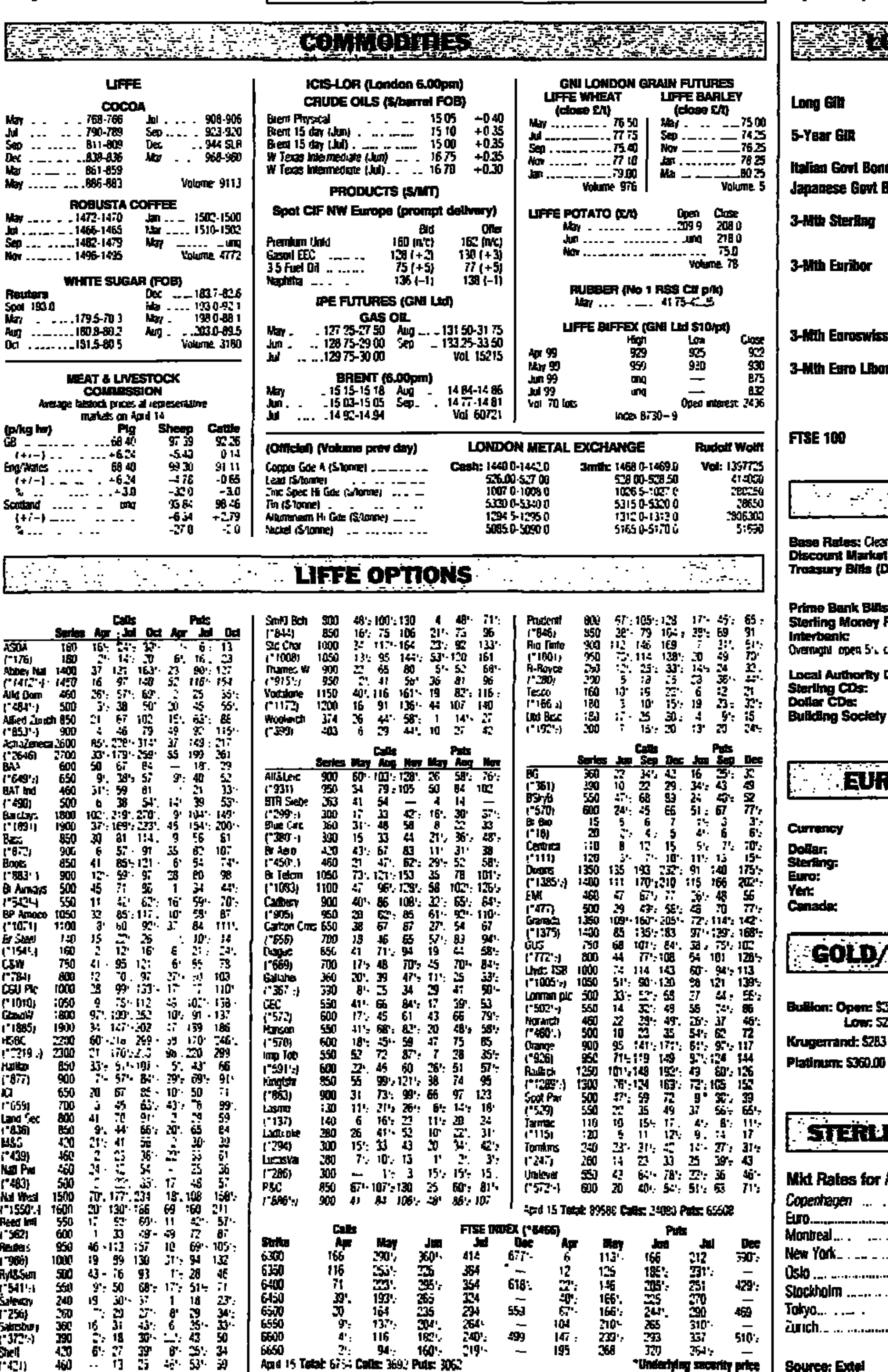
FOLLOWERS of this column will not have been surprised by yesterday's news that Northern Leisure is in talks to acquire Fife Group. Just last month we advised investors to sit tight pending corporate action.

What was surprising was the nature of the deal under discussion. If all goes to plan, Northern will issue a small number of new shares to mop up Fife for something close to its current value of £13.8 million. It is a small enough issue to be received calmly.

In return, Northern will get a new senior management team, in the form of Adam Mills and Ray McEnhill. They plan to do with Northern what they did with National Express. By the time they left in 1996, the bus and coach operator's value had risen from £60 million at flotation in 1992 to just over £500 million. They had also taken the company into airports and paved the way for its foray into trains.

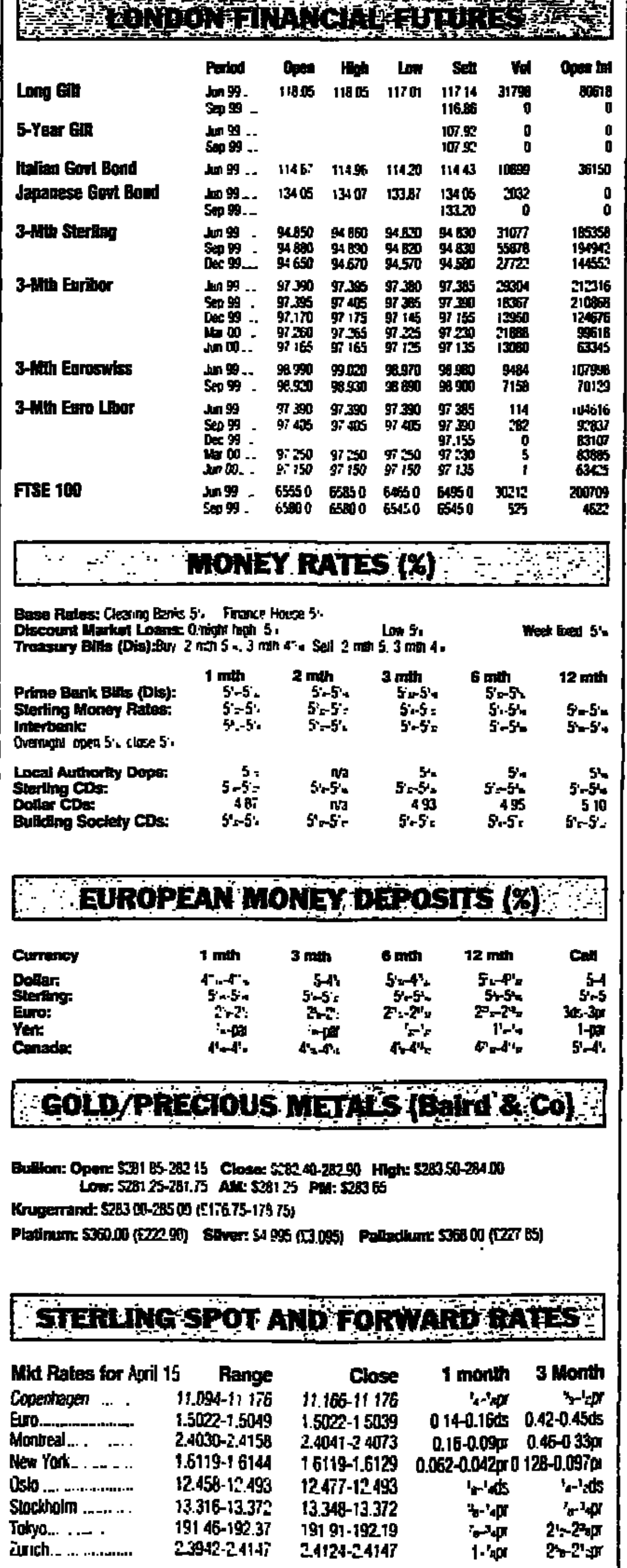
Expect nightclubs to become just one division as the two men look at everything from hotels to fitness clubs and snooker halls. Nick Oppenheim may be stepping down as vice chairman but it is understood he has every intention of retaining his 12 per cent stake. Smaller shareholders should do likewise.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE OPTIONS



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	118.05	118.05	117.01	117.14	31798	80618
	Sep 99				116.86	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				107.92	0	0
	Sep 99				107.92	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	114.67	114.96	114.20	114.43	10899	36150
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	134.05	134.07	133.87	134.05	2032	0
	Sep 99				133.20	0	0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.850	94.860	94.830	94.830	31077	185358
	Sep 99	94.880	94.890	94.820	94.830	55878	194942
	Dec 99	94.650	94.670	94.570	94.580	27722	144552
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.390	97.395	97.380	97.385	29304	212316
	Sep 99	97.395	97.405	97.385	97.390	18367	210868
	Dec 99	97.170	97.175	97.145	97.155	12950	124676
	Mar 00	97.260	97.265	97.225	97.230	21888	99618
	Jun 00	97.165	97.165	97.125	97.135	13080	63345
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.990	99.020	98.970	98.980	9484	107998
	Sep 99	98.930	98.930	98.890	98.900	7158	70129
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.390	97.390	97.390	97.385	114	104616
	Sep 99	97.405	97.405	97.405	97.390	282	92837
	Dec 99				97.155	0	83107
	Mar 00	97.250	97.250	97.250	97.230	5	83885
	Jun 00	97.150	97.150	97.150	97.135	1	63425
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6555.0	6585.0	6465.0	6495.0	30212	200709
	Sep 99	6580.0	6580.0	6545.0	6545.0	525	4622

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high 5 [illegible] Low 5 [illegible] Week fixed 5 [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5 [illegible], 3 mth 4 [illegible] Sell 2 mth 5, 3 mth 4 [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5 [illegible] close 5 [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.87	n/a	4.93	4.95	5.10
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $281.85-282.15 **Close:** $282.40-282.90 **High:** $283.50-284.00 **Low:** $281.25-281.75 **AM:** $281.25 **PM:** $283.65

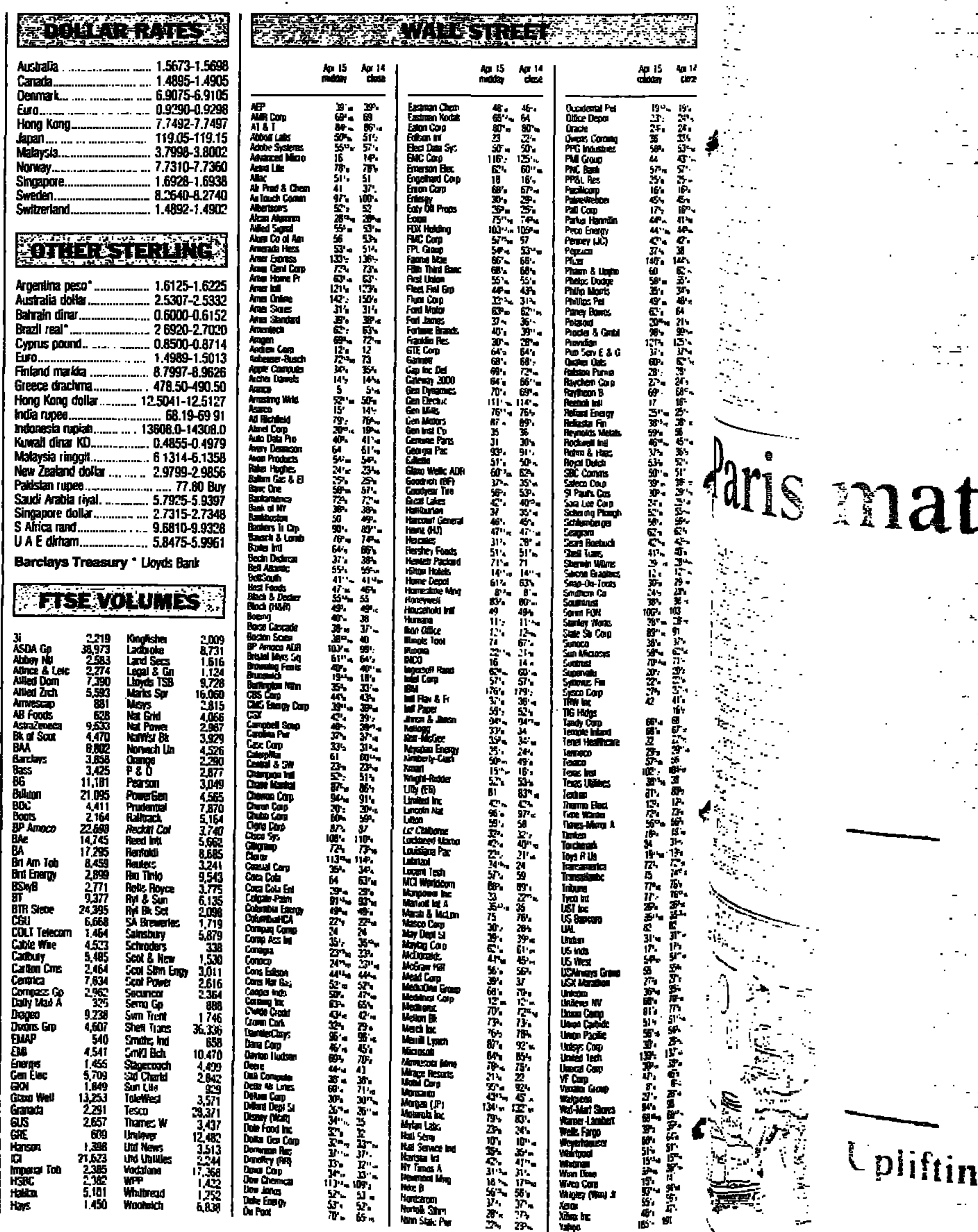
Krugerrand: $283.00-285.00 (£176.75-178.75)

Platinum: $360.00 (£222.90) **Silver:** $4.995 (£3.095) **Palladium:** $368.00 (£227.85)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	*11.094-11.176*	*11.166-11.176*	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.5022-1.5049	1.5022-1.5039	0.14-0.16ds	0.42-0.45ds
Montreal	2.4030-2.4158	2.4041-2.4073	0.16-0.09pr	0.46-0.33pr
New York	1.6119-1.6144	1.6119-1.6129	0.062-0.042pr	0.128-0.097pr
Oslo	12.458-12.493	12.477-12.493	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.316-13.372	13.348-13.372	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	191.46-192.37	191.91-192.19	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3942-2.4147	2.4124-2.4147	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5673-1.5698
Canada	1.4895-1.4905
Denmark	6.9075-6.9105
Euro	0.9290-0.9298
Hong Kong	7.7492-7.7497
Japan	119.05-119.15
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.7310-7.7360
Singapore	1.6928-1.6938
Sweden	8.2640-8.2740
Switzerland	1.4892-1.4902

OTHER STERLING

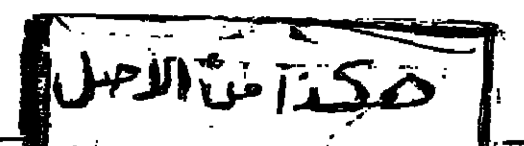
Argentina peso*	1.6125-1.6225
Australia dollar	2.5307-2.5332
Bahrain dinar	0.6000-0.6152
Brazil real*	2.6920-2.7020
Cyprus pound	0.8500-0.8714
Euro	1.4989-1.5013
Finland markka	8.7997-8.9626
Greece drachma	478.50-490.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.5041-12.5127
India rupee	68.19-69.91
Indonesia rupiah	13608.0-14308.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4855-0.4979
Malaysia ringgit	6.1314-6.1358
New Zealand dollar	2.9799-2.9856
Pakistan rupee	77.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7925-5.9397
Singapore dollar	2.7315-2.7348
S Africa rand	9.6810-9.9328
U A E dirham	5.8475-5.9961

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,219	Kingfisher	2,009
ASDA Gp	38,973	Ladbroke	8,731
Abbey Ntl	2,583	Land Secs	1,616
Allnce & Leic	2,274	Legal & Gn	1,124
Allied Dom	7,390	Lloyds TSB	9,728
Allied Zrch	5,593	Marks Spr	16,060
Amvescap	881	Misys	2,815
AB Foods	638	Nat Grid	4,066
AstraZeneca	9,533	Nat Power	2,987
Bk of Scot	4,470	NatWst Bk	3,929
BAA	8,802	Norwich Un	4,526
Barclays	3,858	Orange	2,290

WALL STREET



A question of Jett black and white on Wall Street

Adam Jones reports on the New York rogue trader who claims he was a victim of racial slurs

FOR the past five years, Joseph Jett has been branded the rogue trader who lost Kidder, Peabody, his Wall Street employer, $350 million by reporting fictional dealing profits. On Tuesday, a campaign to clear his name begins — in the most unlikely place.

Mr Jett will go on the *Today* programme, the legendary NBC breakfast show, to further his claim that he was a scapegoat. Not only that, Mr Jett, who was one of the few black hotshots on Wall Street at the time, is now saying that he was the victim of sustained racial slurs at Kidder.

The interview is the centrepiece of the publicity campaign for his new book, *Black and White on Wall Street*. NBC, though, is a bizarre place to kick it all off.

The station is owned by General Electric, Mr Jett's ultimate paymaster when he was at Kidder. His appearance exhumes a controversy that GE, which sold the investment bank after firing Mr Jett in 1994, would rather forget.

But Mr Jett appears unconcerned about the potential conflict of interest. He is more interested in having a forum to resurrect his career, this time as a hedge fund manager.

He won't give details, saying only that he has assembled a fund with less than $100 million, mainly from private individuals. He says some were drawn to his notoriety on the grounds that good guys finish last. "Being well known, through fame or infamy, is a door opener," Mr Jett says.

And Mr Jett admits that he was not one of the good guys. In his early days as a trader, he was a braggart who would prop up the bar, repeatedly asking various women: "When I walk alone on high mountains, for whom do I seek, if not you?" Apparently, it was a successful chat-up line, gilded by boasts of his Harvard MBA.

Mr Jett did not refer to race issues in any of his hearings, but in his book are new claims that he was demonised at work for dating white women. He says this led him to be unfairly harsh with female subordinates as a protective measure. "I've never billed myself as being a sympathetic character," he admits. "There are women at Kidder who could have had promising careers, who could have made more money than they did and I cut them off completely."

Mr Jett has some support in the US media, although the right-wing *American Spectator* described the book as a "vivid and disturbing case study of a man in complete denial . . . like an Oliver Sacks story told from the perspective of the patient".

The reviewer took exception, among other things, to Mr Jett's claim that his superiors approved of his bond trading strategy, a claim that has been vehemently denied. The strategy involved recording unrealised profits on obscure, deferred trades. Mr Jett insists that the entries in his ledger would eventually have become genuine profits if the trades had been allowed to mature. The epic losses, he says, were only caused by a clumsy "fire sale" initiated by his superiors.

But a ruling by the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), the Wall Street watchdog, compared his system with an illusory pyramid scheme, one that was designed to defraud.

Saying his superiors were only guilty of failing to question adequately where the star trader's profits came from, the SEC ordered that Mr Jett return $8.21 million in bonuses and pay a $200,000 fine.

Appeals have been made on both sides, with the SEC wanting a stiffer penalty. However, Mr Jett, who says his money has been eaten up by lawyers' fees, believes that at least he will never face criminal charges. The FBI has just returned his laptop computer, which would have been key evidence.

There are nagging questions on both sides. Kidder's controls certainly left something to be desired if they were blind to the situation. The SEC ruling also went against an earlier arbitration decision that provided a victory for Mr Jett.

Fundamentally, Mr Jett's claim that he was really a brilliant trader, as opposed to a charlatan, is almost impossible to prove to the layman because of the complex nature of the transactions.

He makes great play in the book of how trading attracted him as a career because numbers ruled. Numbers were objective, hard facts, pillars of what he thought would be a meritocracy that looked at individual effectiveness, not race.

But his baffling trading patterns appeared to depend on so much that was not objective, namely the choice of accounting standard.

What is left for the observer is a shifting landscape of deepest grey. Not everything is black and white on Wall Street.

STUART RAMSON



Jett: "brilliant not a charlatan"

Huntsman hits his ICI target

Carl Mortished profiles the US tycoon who successfully brings Mammon and God together

PAT HANNAGAN



Materials gain: Jon Huntsman, left, and Charles Miller Smith yesterday after the announcement of the sale of ICI's polyurethanes business

Charity begins at home. ICI's chief executive, Charles Miller Smith, might have dwelled on that old maxim as he watched Jon Huntsman, the plastics tycoon and one of America's leading philanthropists, blow hot and cold over the purchase of ICI's bulk chemicals businesses.

Huntsman Corporation has long been in the frame, pursuing the Teesside petrochemicals business for 18 months. But he was never in a hurry, leaving ICI to stew over Easter. The devout Mormon and chairman of America's largest private chemicals firm went home to Salt Lake City to celebrate the holiday with his family.

Jon Huntsman likes a willing seller and over the past year, ICI has been behaving like a seller not just keen but quite hysterical. DuPont, the original buyer of the Tioxide businesses, was barred by the Federal Trade Commission, and the market has punished ICI stock for its heavy debt since it took over Unilever's fragrance and food additive businesses.

ICI's acrylics business is now up for sale and some analysts reckon that the British company had to put more on the plate in yesterday's deal. Peter Mackie, at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, observes: "We think they had to throw in polyurethanes as a sweetener."

The American will not have to worry about shareholders, not even after writing a cheque for £1.4 billion. Dividends are an irrelevance at the chemicals company; they would only end up in Huntsman's pocket. He is said to be worth $1 billion but lists three financial objectives: pay down debt, improve plant and facilities and put money into humanitarian projects. "Nothing has ever gone out to the family in my recollection — we've just lived on our salaries," he explains.

The US press fetes Huntsman more as philanthropist than buccaneering capitalist. He lavishes money on medical foundations, Ivy League colleges and even homes for battered women in Salt Lake City. Curiously, Huntsman is a major contributor to Roman Catholic charities active in the Third World, earning this God-fearing Mormon an audience with the Pope.

The stock market was yesterday more interested in Mammon; shares in commodity-based companies were on the rise, sensing that a turn in the cycle was due after a lengthy despond. The man himself thinks we have seen the worst. "We are within a year of the upside." But the cautious Huntsman insisted that ICI add polyurethanes to the deal to balance the volatile petrochemicals assets.

Who is this canny deal-maker? Huntsman divides every dollar of his free cash flow in half, putting 50 cents into the business and 50 into good works. Such saintliness has not made him a soft touch. He is a man driven by a sense of larger purpose. The purple prose of the corporate mission statement and a website with cheesy pictures of him and his wife can grate on cynical eyes and ears.

The trouble is that Huntsman is entirely sincere. His story is the classic American tale of poor boy made good by hard toil, thrift and the Lord's work. "The early days were difficult. My father was a music teacher . . . the only job he could find was in Blackfoot, Idaho," he said, in a recent interview. It has an almost Dickensian sentimentality to it, complete with the doctor pronouncing Jon Huntsman dead at birth, a "blue baby". His father and the midwife refused to give up on the child and eventually, the future tycoon surfaced for air.

Huntsman's first business was a plastics packaging firm which will go down in history as the inventor of the "clamshell", a piece of modern industrial design that litters high streets from Tokyo to Tuscaloosa. In 1974, he persuaded MacDonald's to use the clamshell as its Big Mac container and in 1976, he sold the company, delivering his shareholders 34 dollars for every dollar they invested. "Many millionaires came out of that first little company," he notes.

Then followed his first corporate deal, buying a $42 million polystyrene plant from Shell Oil. "When I told them I would put up $500,000 in equity they just about tossed me out of the office."

Undeterred, he came back with an even more outrageous idea. He persuaded Shell to lend him $12 million to buy the business, giving them an IOU which he would pay back over ten years. The bumptious boy from Blackfoot then promised Arco Chemical Company that he would buy 150 million pounds of raw styrene from them every year if they lent him $10 million up front.

With $22 million in the bag, he secured a $20 million loan from the bank, mortgaging his business to Shell and the bank and his house to Arco. It was the beginning of Huntsman Corporation, "literally hooked together with chewing gum and bailing wire," he said.

Huntsman is a bottom-fisher, buying businesses at the nadir of the cycle for a fraction of their replacement cost. He then runs them for cash, pushing as much volume as he can through the plant to cover the high fixed costs and the debt.

He went on to buy Texaco's chemical business for $1 billion in 1993 jointly with Kerry Packer, the Australian media mogul, picking up a polystyrene business from Elf Atochem in the same year.

Recently, Huntsman has shed the assets of the original business, selling styrenics to Nova Chemical Company for £660 million. He is refocusing on less cyclical products, such as titanium dioxide, the pigments business, surfactants and the polyurethane business acquired from ICI. He would like to buy the ICI acrylics business, which the British company put up for sale yesterday. "It is very much of interest to us."

Can this relentless expansion continue? Huntsman is a useful home for distressed sellers of rusting chemical kit. With no shareholders, no annual report, no sneering analysts probing its accounts, it can ride out lean times. While the bosses at ICI and Shell are justifying themselves to the City's teenage scribblers, Huntsman is being showered with honorary degrees and congratulated by the man in the Vatican.

Huntsman likes it this way, with his son, Jon junior, as vice-chairman, another son, Peter as chief operating officer, his daughters on the board and 40 grandchildren waiting in the wings for their cue. He said: "We have no intention of going public. We have limited resources, we don't want to deal with shareholders. Our priority is to distribute fund to humanitarian causes, we could not do that if we had shareholders."

Huntsman is eclectic in his choice of good causes — he built a concrete plant in Armenia to help to build houses for the homeless after the 1988 earthquake. This year, he will inaugurate a new village in the country, Huntsville, having created a school and several blocks of apartments.

But his biggest cause is cancer. He donated $100 million to a University of Utah Cancer Institute. The focus of research is the genetic cause of cancer and there is a link with the two forces that drive this man: his family and his religion. The institute is making use of the vast resources of the Mormon church's genealogical library to trace genetic histories. It is a link that must trouble the plastics tycoon. Both of his parents died of cancer and Huntsman himself has battled with prostate and mouth cancer.

Huntsman seems determined to pass on his vast empire to his grandchildren but a much better legacy for him would be a cure for the disease that has afflicted his family.

BUSINESS LETTER

Euro and UK interest rates

From Mr Walter Grey

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky (Economic View, April 13) rightly took Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank, to task not only for gratuitously foreclosing an option by publicly promising no further cut in euro interest rates, but above all for disdaining any kind of "contra-cyclical" or "cyclically oriented" monetary policy, when maintenance of price stability by means of a counter-cyclical interest rate cycle, or a policy of constantly leaning against the wind, in fact represents anyone's best hope of banishing the economic (boom-bust) cycle at last.

Where Mr Kaletsky went wrong, however, was in drawing a parallel between the present strength of the pound, despite successive cuts in UK interest rates, based on the "high level of worldwide confidence in British economic management and political stability", on the one hand, and the pound's previous strength in the late 1980s, prior to its entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism, following the excruciatingly high interest rates needed to curb the Lawson boom's inflationary excesses, on the other.

There being no true analogy between those two positions, and given the striking difference made by Britain's new, stability-oriented fiscal as well as monetary policy regimes, Mr Kaletsky's conclusion that, in coming months, "the difference between British and European interest rates will widen" to the detriment of the convergence needed for the pound's eventual entry into the euro, seems far from certain.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER GREY,
12 Arden Road,
Finchley N3 3AN.

Paris match



THE big City law firms are under attack in Paris for their habit of poaching senior locals for salaries undreamt of in French legal circles. This process has been going on for some time as Anglo-Saxon firms move into Europe but matters have come to a head with a series of high-profile hirings.

The French are accusing the Brits of anything from commercial imperialism to being obsessed with money and unconcerned with the damage they are doing to the legal system. Gide Loyrette Nouel, France's biggest practice, has already abandoned a ten-year link with our own Allen & Overy in protest.

Now the French firm, smarting from the latest defection of two partners to Linklaters & Paines's burgeoning pan-European venture, has called a crisis meeting of senior staff to decide what can be done.

The meeting did come up with one firm resolution. A senior partner at Gide was asked to resign. So that's how you deal with staff defections.



I HEAR Michael Hardern, the increasingly eccentric scourge of the mutuals, was thrown out of the Soho branch of Barclays Bank yesterday for causing trouble.

Hardern was later heard to tell listeners at the Portland Building Society meeting that he was told to leave — after he went up to the counter and demanded to be made Barclays's new chief executive.

Uplifting

AS THE merger with Deutsche Bank nears, the top brass at Bankers Trust get sillier and sillier. A while back staff were solemnly instructed on how to address Germans. Now a bizarre questionnaire has arrived by e-mail.

Staff are asked about their personal tastes. Favourite songs, old movies, pets — but it gets worse. "Most interesting view from your desk" and "favourite desk ornament", for example. And how about "standard elevator greeting"? As in "Hello, lift!" I suppose.

I ask my informant what sort of person spends their time thinking up such rubbish. "God only knows, but the terrifying thing is they and their kind are taking over."

EARLIER this week I reproduced a paragraph of gibberish with which the organisers chose to promote National Construction Week. I hear the launch yesterday was equally fraught with trouble for the rear cleavage brigade. They couldn't work the high-tech screen, and anyway someone had forgotten to rewind the video of John Prescott's prepared speech.

So Nick Raynsford, Construction Minister, decided to take questions. As he started, the head of Prescott appeared on the screen and bellowed: "Good morning." At which, Raynsford commented wryly: "Ah! His Master's voice."

Driven away

SIMON FREAKLEY, senior partner of corporate undertakers Buchler Phillips, has long boosted his street credibility by living in Peckham. After 12 years of slumming it, he recently decided to go up in the world and moved to South Kensington.

Two weeks later his Mercedes, which had survived unmolested in Peckham, was stolen.

IF YOU have tears to shed, shed them for Ronald Dillon, director of international operations at COLT Telecom, who does not seem to have appreciated the high regard the stock market has for his company.

The accounts show that he exercised options and then sold 160,000 shares at about £2.60 in February last year. Earlier this year the price peaked at well over £13. He could have made an extra £1.7 million.

Rabbit stew

MORE tears, for the unnamed owners of the rabbit cruelly slain by Transco, the gas pipeline business. This sensitive bunny keeled over and died of a heart attack after workmen started drilling in its road.

The company offered to replace the rabbit but the owner went to the Gas Consumers Council and claimed for the vet's fees and other expenses. If it died of a heart attack, though, why did they need a vet?

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Rabbits: sensitive to gas

Second-liners show gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615½	446	Allied Domecq	485	-½	6.3	11.6
341	279½	Bulmer (HP)	329		4.6	14.7
18½	10½	Burn Stewart	17½			
742	625	Diageo†	668½	-17	2.8	16.6
730	550	Glenmorangie A	572½	+2½	2.5	15.5
266	222½	Highland Distl	249	-1½	3.8	11.7
29½	25	Merrydown W	25½	-½		

BANKS

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1418¾	1146½	ABN-AMRO	1306½	-3½	2.9	16.4
1432	1090	Abbey Natl†	1416	+7	2.5	19.5
951	739	Alliance & Leic†	932½	-8	2.6	17.1
1362½	991	Allied Irish	1099½	-20	2.3	22.1
491½	389	Aus New Z	478	-13½	4.3	
4640½	3653½	Bank America	4496½	-96½		
949	690	Bank Scotland	917½	+3½	1.1	23.0
1975	1275	Barclays†	1894	-50	2.3	21.7
1487½	1185	Bk of Ireland	1269½	-16	2.2	20.8
2009½	1631½	Commerzbk	1984½	-9½	2.6	
484¾	316½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	434½	-6½	1.0	
4040½	3106½	Deutsche Bk	3175	-31½	2.4	
1196½	925	Espirito Santo	981½	-6½	4.0	
429½	215½	Fuji Bank Y	429½	+9½	1.0	
2225	1165	HSBC†	2221	+19	2.5	23.1
2193½	1432	HSBC HK†	2188	+17	2.5	22.7
880	675	Halifax†	877	+21½	2.3	20.1
1055	900	Irish Perm	937	-8	1.7	21.1
1066½	704	Lloyds TSB†	1009½	-33½	2.2	28.6
1172	899½	Nat Aust Bk	1172	+7	3.4	
1568	1030	Nat West†	1552	+8	2.3	19.9
610	440	Northern Rock	586½	-16½	2.1	18.8
1483	936½	Ryl Bk Scot	1458	+14	1.7	20.9
1017	667	Stand Chart†	1008	+44½	2.1	22.1
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		2.0	
476½	397½	Westpac	405½	-13	1.8	
413	316	Woolwich†	394½	+4	2.7	19.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
75½	55½	European Mb	57½		10.6	5.3
264	255	Evans Halshaw	259		6.6	8.3
70	57½	Fife Group	66½	+5½	7.8	
154½	115½	Finelist Grp	124½		7.2	4.5
58	46	Glenchewton†	47½		5.1	
115½	94½	Gowrings†	102½		3.9	7.8
166	121	HR Owen†	165	+2½	6.1	6.9
365	242½	Heywood	356½		2.4	
110	97	Holders Tech†	103		6.8	
54	35	ISA Intl	41		2.5	
161½	122	Inchcape	142½	+4½	8.2	21.8
65½	59½	Jacks (Wm)	61½	+½	10.8	
543	373	Kwik-Fit	534	+2	1.4	23.6
477½	366	Lex Service†	473	+15½	4.1	10.3
90½	72½	Lookers†	78½		10.5	5.9
375	310	Menzies (John)	335		4.5	8.9
1½	0½	Middlesex	1			
29	22½	Molynx	25½		1.9	8.0
280	203	Norbain	218½		4.5	9.4
172½	134½	Northamber†	145	+1½	3.1	7.8
187½	129½	Parcel†	177½		5.6	10.8
212½	153½	Pendragon†	168	+2	7.1	7.6
145½	120½	Perry Gp	144		6.9	
250	153	Premier Farnell	245	+17½	3.8	15.0
101½	75½	Quicks Group†	81	-1	9.9	
60	40	REA	60		7.1	13.7
2½	1	Reece	1½			
34½	27½	Ring	28½		5.6	7.8
1½	0½	Ronson	1			
3½	2½	Ross Gp	2½			7.7
87½	70½	Rylands†	84½	-3	5.6	5.8
15	9	SEP Ind#	10½		12.7	4.8
136	108	Salchurst	114		5.0	
11½	3	Samic	6½			
211½	131½	Sanderson Bram†	202½		3.1	6.7
48	31½	Sedgemoor	43½	-½	4.9	11.9
206	157½	Sytner†	177½		4.4	6.9
104½	72½	Time Products	100	+2	10.6	7.5
227½	227½	Trust Motor Grp	227½		1.1	4.0
325	278	UMECO	310	+2½	2.4	12.9
23	14	United Oseas Gp	19		6.3	4.2
308½	174½	Vardy (Reg)†	298½	-1½	2.9	10.6
798	485	WF Prod	486		3.8	11.3
110	75½	W'slo	106½		3.4	8.7
100½	80½	Young (H)	81½		6.1	5.1

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
614½	435	Broken Hill	614½	+37	3.3	

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

1999 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101.89	100.48	Treas 10¼% 1999	100.4800	-0.0300	10.45	5.07
100.50	100.32	Treas 6% 1999	100.3200	-0.0200	5.98	4.98
104.32	103.06	Conv 10¼% 1999	103.0600	-0.0500	9.95	4.99
104.33	103.45	Conv 9% 2000	103.4500	-0.0600	8.70	4.94
105.64	104.70	Treas 8% 2000	104.7000	-0.1200	7.64	4.98
103.54	102.66	Treas 8½% 2000	102.6500	-0.0500	8.28	4.97
117.65	109.60	Treas 13% 2000	109.6000	-0.0900	11.86	4.95
112.27	108.78	Treas 10% 2001	108.7800	-0.1600	9.19	4.98
106.61	104.80	Treas 7% 2001	104.9600	-0.2200	6.67	4.91
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108.13	106.04	Treas 7% 2002	106.2400	-0.3600	6.59	4.83
117.29	114.77	Treas 9¾% 2002	114.7800	-0.3000	8.49	4.93
110.21	107.04	Treas 6½% 2003	107.5000	-0.4000	6.05	4.68
114.74	111.66	Treas 8% 2003	111.9900	-0.3800	7.14	4.77
122.52	119.99	Treas 10% 2003	120.2500	-0.4200	8.32	4.82
113.59	111.69	Treas 11½% 2001-04	111.6900	-0.1600	10.30	5.03
98.96	95.20	Fund 3½% 1999-04	95.2000	-0.4600	3.68	4.45
126.43	122.39	Conv 9½% 2004	122.9600†	-0.5300	7.73	4.72
112.28	109.68	Treas 6¾% 2004	110.2000	-0.4800	6.13	4.66
125.31	120.57	Treas 8½% 2005	121.6100	-0.6100	6.99	4.67
128.16	123.75	Conv 9½% 2005	124.6800†	-0.5600	7.62	4.73
135.55	131.27	Treas 12½% 2003-05	131.4200	-0.4200	9.51	4.32
121.62	116.53	Treas 7½% 2006	117.7900	-0.6900	6.37	4.70
122.40	117.43	Treas 7¾% 2006	118.6500	-0.6600	6.53	4.72
111.73	108.28	Treas 8% 2002-06	109.4200	-0.3300	7.31	4.98
126.29	123.32	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123.3200	-0.3000	9.53	4.36
129.86	124.22	Treas 8½% 2007	125.5800	-0.7400	6.77	4.72
122.55	116.84	Treas 7¼% 2007	118.1800	-0.7700	6.13	4.66
138.52	131.92	Treas 9% 2008	133.5200†	-0.9000	6.74	4.60
114.67	108.77	Treas 5¾% 2009	110.4300	-0.7800	5.21	4.50
132.91	126.37	Treas 8% 2009	127.9200	-0.8600	6.25	4.59
118.76	113.05	Treas 6¼% 2010	115.0200	-0.8700	5.43	4.56
145.31	138.39	Conv 9% 2011	140.3000	-1.0700	6.41	4.64
147.74	140.35	Treas 9% 2012	142.6100	-1.1300	6.31	4.66
112.26	106.86	Treas 5½% 2008-12	108.3500	-0.7800	5.08	4.40
133.56	126.92	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	128.9700	-0.9300	6.01	4.71
LONGS (over 15 years)						
139.64	132.65	Treas 8% 2013	134.8300	-1.0700	5.93	4.66
144.12	136.53	Treas 8% 2015	138.6600	-1.1400	5.76	4.61
156.08	147.75	Treas 8¾% 2017	150.3200	-1.2500	5.82	4.63
153.21	144.07	Treas 8% 2021	146.6700	-1.3800	5.45	4.60
UNDATED						
79.83	72.06	War Ln 3½%	74.7900	-1.0900	4.68	
55.17	50.07	Treas 2½%	52.5200	-0.6700	4.76	
87.19	79.37	Consols 4%	81.6900	-1.3800	4.88	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
206.02	202.47	Treas IL 2½% 2001	204.1900	-0.1400	2.41	2.84
207.83	204.11	Treas IL 2½% 2003	206.3200	-0.0900	2.04	2.29
134.77	132.33	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	134.4400†	-0.0900	1.66	1.86
239.80	233.07	Treas IL 2% 2006	239.4900	-0.0100	1.38	1.53
221.45	213.61	Treas IL 2½% 2009	221.2500		1.51	1.62
235.62	226.50	Treas IL 2½% 2011	235.2400	-0.0900	1.61	1.70
199.07	190.36	Treas IL 2½% 2013	198.6900	-0.0900	1.63	1.71
221.10	210.15	Treas IL 2½% 2016	220.4700	-0.2600	1.64	1.71
221.68	208.77	Treas IL 2½% 2020	221.0000†	-0.1300	1.65	1.71
193.74	180.61	Treas IL 2½% 2024	192.8800	-0.4300	1.62	1.67
193.23	178.88	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	192.1800	-0.3400	1.57	1.62

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Short Dtd Gilt	139.70	141.20	- 0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8496	0.8565	+ 0.01	
Gilt Income	55.42	56.291	+ 0.01	5.40
Gilt Growth	101.40	103.10	- 0.10	
Sterling Bond	56.43	57.44	+ 0.03	5.50
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7808				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	149.16	158.88	+ 0.02	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	145.58	145.58		
US Equity Safeguard	119.39	127.98	- 0.11	2.67
-do- NAV to Mar 19	116.050	116.0506		
US Eqy Safeguard	99.42	105.63	+ 0.01	
Cash	957.67	962.46		4.50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	460.64	488.28	- 1.61	1.05
UK Small Cos	97.08	103.07	+ 0.35	0.31
FTSE 250 Index	114.85	122.83	+ 0.94	1.69
Geared UK Index	#28.041	#27.490†	- 0.08	4.00
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.31	91.18	- 0.06	5.12
Monthly Inc	44.16	47.22†		7.94
International Funds				
American Gen	398.72	421.42	- 8.95	
American Star	180.86	199.02	- 1.99	
JG US Index	#31.401	#33.082	- 0.55	4.50
European Gen	450.18	474.91	- 2.40	0.08
European Star	215.83	230.58	- 2.03	
Japan Gen	121.86	129.54	+ 0.74	
Asia Pacific	70.93	75.79	+ 0.31	1.40
Pacific Star	101.27	108.31	+ 1.58	
Greater China	182.62	195.32	+ 4.06	
Latin America	73.09	78.07	+ 0.09	
Int Growth	206.41	219.98	- 2.41	
Balanced Europe	191.27	198.20	- 0.02	
Global Strategy	50.54	54.05	- 0.93	

	Sell	Buy
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD		
0161 837 5060		
Environ	258.50	270.00
UK Growth	332.50	350.00
UK Income	216.70	228.101
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD		
01707 422 100		
Can Gen Dist	347.30	368.10
-do- Income Dist	190.70	202.10
-do- Accum	656.70	698.10
Gilt & Fxd Int	48.01	50.45
Growth Units	418.10	448.10
Bond	204.30	215.10†
Intl Growth	293.40	311.70
North American	460.00	488.90
Far East	196.30	208.90
UK Smaller Cos	299.70	320.50
European	144.20	153.10
Japanese Growth	35.42	37.54†
High Income	327.70	350.00†
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD		
American & Gen	392.00	414.50†
European Inc	157.20	168.70
Smaller Cos (4-1)	126.20	134.20†
Growth	810.90	862.70†
Income & Growth #	652.30	694.00
-do- Accum #	1081.00	1150.00
Japan & Gen	64.88	68.561
Hallmark Gwth	1833.00	1910.00†
-do- Accum	2341.00	2439.00
Special Sits	185.70	198.70
High Yield	2143.00	2210.00



JAZZ

Jan Garbarek's latest voyage into mysticism

PAGE 36

THE TIMES

ARTS

POP

No great barriers to enjoying Reef

PAGE 37



RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

GREEK MYTHS: The first of three concerts by the City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox which focus on music inspired by classical mythology while simultaneously paying tribute to Richard Strauss. The UK premiere of Strauss's edition of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, tonight, has Kurt Streit singing the title role.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7pm.

HUSHABYE MOUNTAIN: Jonathan Harvey's bittersweet comedy about a relationship broken by Aids. Some scenes set in Heaven, where Judy Garland welcomes the dead partner.
Hampstead (0171-722 9301). Opens tonight, 7pm.

MAKING NOISE QUIETLY: Dominic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Co opens a London season with Robert Holman's much-praised trilogy of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war. Eleanor Bron heads the cast. Deborah Bruce directs.
Whitehall Theatre (0171-369 1735. Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Monday, 7pm.

ONYX BRASS: This energetic young chamber ensemble, made up of ex-principal players from the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, plays Tallis, Monteverdi, Purcell, Bach and Brahms before signing off with a series of 20th-century pieces.
Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra opens its visit here with Strauss's modestly-scaled Oboe Concerto (soloist Christopher Cowie), before launching into Mahler's substantial Seventh Symphony. Neeme Järvi conducts.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Sunday, 8pm.



Richard Hickox conducts Strauss at the Barbican

BOLTON: In *Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis*, Charlotte Jones's comedy of surprises, life changes for Josie at her 60th birthday party. Lawrence Till directs.
Octagon (01204-520661). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

EDINBURGH: *Stiff* is a new musical by and starring Forbes Masson as a monumental mason who makes a Faustian pact with a devil called Neville and is hurtled to fame.
Royal Lyceum (0131-229 9697). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

◩ **CANDIDE**: Great songs in Bernstein's musical drawn from Voltaire. John Caird and Trevor Nunn direct excellent cast led by Daniel Evans, Alex Kelly and Simon Russell Beale.
Olivier (0171-452 3000).

☐ **THE NEW ROCKY HORROR SHOW**: Jason Donovan plays Frank'n'Furter. Perhaps the show has improved since Birmingham last year.
Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317).

☐ **ESCAPE FROM PTERADACTYL ISLAND**: Award-winning American musical based on the genre of early sci-fi novels, with new rock'n'roll songs from Michael Jeffery.
Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800).

☐ **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER**: Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in famous Tennessee Williams shocker.
Comedy Theatre (0171-369 1731).

☐ **TALES OF A CITY**: Life after a catastrophe, told as a mixture of dreams and memories by Macedonian writer Goran Stevanovski. Sandy Maberley directs for Theatre Melange.
Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060).

☐ **BLOOD KNOT**: Gordon Chase and Barry Wallman star in an exceptionally good production of Athol Fugard's celebrated black and white brothers drama. Wilfred Judd directs.
Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111).

☐ **THE COLONEL BIRD**: Interesting play by Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev where lunatics take over an asylum and invite recognition by NATO. Strong performances in Rupert Goold's production.
Gate (0171-229 0706).

☐ **THE GIN GAME**: Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prizewinner.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG): Oliver Parker's *sumptuous homage* to Wilde's ever-fashionable play is hijacked by Rupert Everett's madly charming Lord Goring. With Jeremy Northam and Cate Blanchett.

HAPPINESS (18): Gripping black comedy about dismal urban attempts to find happiness. Todd Solondz's film walks an edgy line between fantastic humour and ghastly habits.

RETURN TO PARADISE (15): Joseph Ruben's crisis of conscience film is only a fitful suspense about two American buddies who face years in a Malaysian prison if they return to help their condemned buddy. With Vince Vaughn and Anne Heche.

PROMETHEUS (15): Tony Harrison's dense film-poem is a work of surreal genius, and endless layers. Michael Feast is compelling as Zeus's flunky who looks at what we have achieved, and destroyed, with his stolen fire.

ACTRESSES (15): Three famous Catalonian stage actresses stir up old jealousies. Too stagey, too self-conscious. Has the dramatic impetus of a slug. A static self-indulgent piece by Ventura Pons.

CURRENT

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Mealy courtroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparkling form as two sharks in a multi-million dollar case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.

BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15): Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendidly miscast as a hetrosexual New Age svengali. Rose Troche directs.

NO (15): Robert Lepage's supple, black comedy forms a psychedelic chain of coincidences between a Canadian actress and her bomb-making boyfriend. A teasing puzzle about politics and art.

Parisian kiss in the park

DANCE: Nadine Meisner reports on the highlights of a glittering new Paris Opera Ballet season

It used to be said that French ballet had the superlative dancers, but British ballet had the repertoire. On the evidence of the past few weeks the Paris Opera Ballet has the repertoire as well. Three programmes, dividing the company between the Garnier and Bastille theatres, encompassed old and new choreography at its most potent, and showcased the dazzling versatility of dancers able to switch from conventional to radical, from drama to abstraction.

A **Balanchine/Robbins** bill paid homage to two masters of a modern classicism that has been around long enough to start looking traditional. But stylistic categories are blunt tools, and anyway disintegrated with the other two programmes. **Angelin Preljocaj** blends the gestures and inversions of a contemporary demotic with ballet and 18th-century social dance in his magnificent *Le Parc*, created on the company five years ago and packing the Bastille theatre. Thierry Leproust's sets for each of the three acts are stunning, evoking a formal garden that is as allegorical as Preljocaj's action. This is nature tamed by four futuristic gardeners, the henchmen of a controlling sky, now full of thunderous clouds, now a midnight canvas magically dusted with the Milky Way.

Like the topiary and the accompanying Mozart music, the men and women are harnessed by a strict code of orderly geometries, but sex and emotion rampage underneath. At first the women play Marivaux's cross-dressing games of misleading appearances; later, corseted in their voluminous gowns, they swoon, overcome more by their repressed desires than the summer's heat. And throughout is the suspense of whether Isabelle Guerin's Princesse de Cleves will succumb to Laurent Hilaire's seducer. They are the company's most glamorous couple, and when they do make love in the final pas de deux, you realise that for the first time a choreographer has transcended dance's artificiality to convey convincingly the eroticism, emotion and abandon of sex, without sacrificing beauty or poetry. The sublime image of Guerin whirled round by Hilaire in a long kiss will stay with me for ever.

Guerin featured prominently in all three programmes. In the Garnier's **William Forsythe** bill, she with Hilaire, Manuel Legris and Carole Arbo formed the two couples of his new *Woundwork*. Two duets evolving simultaneously but rarely mixing, *Woundwork* finds its aural equivalent in Thom Willems's adagio score, neo-classicism transmuted by tension, the sound tightened to its highest and thinnest pitch. The women are half traditional ballerinas, half reforming spirits, as signalled by their asymmetrical skirts, one side stiffened like a tutu.

The programme marks Forsythe's first return to the POB since 1987 when he created *In the middle, somewhat elevated* (also on the programme). This had celebrated the company's supercharged virtuosity and *Pas./parts* does so again. A fireworks marathon, it gives democratic prominence to a sprinkling of *étoiles* and to members of the lowly echelons such as the leggy Peggy Grelat. The choreography was apparently built from a single phrase (the pas), varied, proliferated and scattered into solos, duos and group dances. Yet you wouldn't know it: the idiosyncratic sections, each with a shift in Willems's music, arrive like a procession of different wildlife species. Nicolas Le Riche, the company's most exciting male *étoile*, flexes his silky power and performs a sensational solo.

Forsythe's recent work for his own Frankfurt Ballet, on display in the Paris suburb of Bobigny, also suggests a renewed emphasis on his ballet roots. *Workwithinwork* (1998) perhaps takes its title from the fact that Luciano Berio's accompanying Duetti for two violins were conceived as exercises for student violinists. A technician sitting at a table on stage projects enigmatic ideograms on the backdrop; the 20 dancers form a choreographic organism ceaselessly elaborating and reshaping itself.

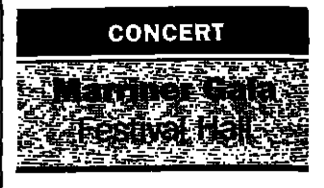
Quartette (1998), when originally choreographed on La Scala's ballet company, included Alessandra Ferri, so its romanticism, ecstasy and playfulness should not surprise. Enlarged from four to 11 dancers for the Frankfurt version, the only quartet remaining are the string players of Willems's score (played live, like Berio's). The dancers do not share the POB glossy perfection of physique and technique, but their individuality added colour to an evening lacking contrast.



Supercharged: Clairemarie Osta and Nicolas Le Riche in William Forsythe's *Pas./parts*

Suave birthday greeting

CONCERT



As the cake was wheeled on, orchestra and chorus struck up with *Happy Birthday*, but could not agree on a rallentando. Sir Neville Marriner, the 75th-birthday boy, had to pick up the baton to see them through. Then he blew out the candles, the audience filed out, beaming brightly, and a party began on the stage.

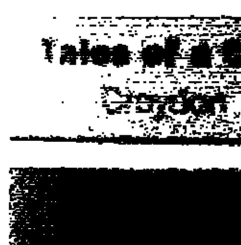
Standards must be slipping, you may think, if the Academy of St Martin in the Fields cannot play *Happy Birthday*. But everything else in this gala in honour of the Academy's founder went as expected. The string tone was smooth as velvet, the phrasing dapper as Marriner's well-fitting suit. The repertoire wore a familiar smile, too: one of Mozart's cuddliest symphonies (*Haffner*), Mendelssohn's gossamer *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and nothing more daring than Britten's *Serenade for tenor, horn and strings* of 1943.

The soloists here were tenor John Mark Ainsley (pure and exact), Timothy Brown (magically navigating his part's difficulties), and a cougher who wisely remained anonymous after sabotaging the final horn call. Any tenor who tackles the *Serenade* must cope with the ghost of Peter Pears, the work's first interpreter. Ainsley held his own, sad or nimble as the words demanded: though his chilly sounds in the *Dirge* did seem weak recompense for Pears's agonised fire. The instrumentalists, however, threw little away: the silver-toned horn and moonstruck strings made the *Nocturne* a particular pleasure.

Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* music continued the nocturnal theme. The Academy was in its element, proving once again Mendelssohn's skill at matching his incidental music of 1843 to the youthful overture written nearly 20 years before. Marriner's band flitted deliciously on elfin wings; brayed like an ass; and got married with pomp in the Wedding March.

Before all these, there was the *Haffner*. One audience member, carried away by the suave gaiety, rounded it off with a whoop. Quite understandable: the Academy's style may not embrace the whole spectrum, but what they do, they do delightfully.

GEOFF BROWN





Forget the steak, we're sold on the sizzle

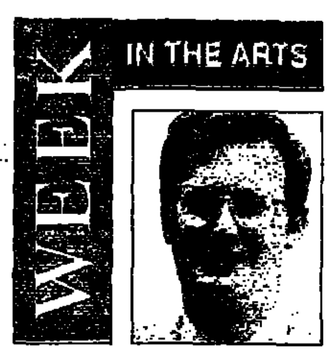
In showbiz, to adapt the old song, it's not what you do, it's the way that you sell it. At least, that is the implication of some just-released statistics detailing the startling sums spent by Hollywood studios on promoting their movies during 1998. Of course it's no secret that film moguls subscribe to the old maxim: "You have to spend a buck to make a buck." What's surprising — and, to their midget-sized would-be competitors on this side of the Atlantic, possibly terrifying — is just how many bucks they are prepared to spend to honour the great god Hype.

Disney led the field, spending a massive $323 million in 1998 on promoting its films *just inside America*. Warner Bros wasn't far behind, at $268 million. Hollywood as a whole spent $2 billion on marketing films in the US. Worldwide, however, the figure may be twice that. Indeed, the Motion Picture Association of America tells us that the average advertising budget of a single Hollywood movie is now a staggering $25.3 million.

Three points occur to me — apart, that is, from the mean-spirited thought that if there is one profession more sickeningly overpaid than m'learned friends at the Bar, it is m'stoned friends in the advertising industry. But I digress. The first point is that the disparity between what Hollywood spends on selling its movies and what is available to British producers is now so huge as to be unbridgeable. That is why the most successful "British" movies — British in cast, crew, production and concept — turn out to be American-financed, with all the profits flowing back west.

In short, it isn't the cost of making films that is prohibitive to us; it's the cost of persuading punters to view them. That point still hasn't percolated through to those (notably HM Government) who naively imagine that the lottery will bankroll a renaissance in British film. What the lottery is bankrolling is a plethora of underpromoted efforts that will mostly come and go without rippling the surface of public consciousness. Many won't be screened at all, for cinema managers are increasingly reluctant to screen films that aren't turbo-propelled into prominence by stonking great advertising campaigns.

The second point is that Hollywood's vast promotion budget doesn't just buy advertising space. It also buys favourable coverage. I don't mean that journalists are blatantly corrupt. Perish the thought! But nice little inducements are on hand — facilities trips to exotic locations, "access" to stars in plush, faraway hotels — for hacks who produce the correct sort of golly-gosh puffery. It all helps to keep the hype wagon rolling merrily along — and to marginalise proper film criticism. That is a state of affairs which newspapers must ponder hard if they want intelligent readers to trust their film coverage.



RICHARD MORRISON

And the final point? It is that Hollywood's gargantuan publicity machines don't just put pressure on other film-makers. They impinge on all art forms. Theatres, orchestras, galleries, restaurants, opera houses: all must compete to win what hip American economists call "the leisure dollar". I don't know about you, but I have only a finite amount of leisure dollars, and a great many of them seem to end up in the small but tenacious hands of my children — who then part with them (it seems to me) entirely in accordance with the dictates of the newest Hollywood hype to hit the hoardings of Hendon. This is a process that is repeated in millions of households across the world. No wonder that serious culture is struggling to be noticed.

What's to be done? Well, we could educate our children to marvel at the subtle intricacies of music, painting and drama, to form their own cultural tastes and not be swayed by global assaults of hyperbolic tripe, to be actively creative and not passively consumerist. But that does not seem to fit in with Mr Blunkett's educational priorities. So onwards the Hollywood publicity machines roll: awesome, ubiquitous, irresistible. I'm not bitter about it — just bemused that, in an age when people strive so hard to assert their individuality in other ways, a small bunch of impresarios in Los Angeles has apparently found the key that unlocks the herd instinct in the whole of mankind.

Meanwhile, up at the intellectual end of Hollywood, I see that the producers of that estimable TV series *Baywatch* have decided to transfer their delightful divertissement of sun, surf and silicone implants to Hawaii. The Pacific paradise has apparently just pipped Australia to the prize of hosting this seminal cultural icon of the late 20th century.

It's very sad. If the beach babes with the bouncing bountifuls had to be transferred at all from their native habitat of southern California, my secret hope was that our own gorgeously endowed Culture Secretary would have induced them to settle in one of Britain's glamorous resorts. After *Baywatch*, why not *Herne Bay Watch*? It makes sense. Wasn't Chris Smith complaining recently that British soap operas are too dowdy to interest the rest of the world?

My preference would have been Cromer. True, the Norfolk resort is not noted for sun or surf, let alone silicone implants. And a few minor costume changes would have been required — namely the replacing of thimble-sized swimsuits with the anoraks and thermal trousers traditionally sported on British beaches in midsummer. But think of the storylines if *Baywatch*'s lissom lifeguards were relocated to the café on Cromer Pier! Why, the show could even be retitled *Traywatch*.

Oh well, it's too late now. The producers have opted for Hawaii, where doubtless the plots will disintegrate into dreary processions of practically naked young women, 100mph car chases and underwater harpoon fights with savage packs of sharks. I doubt very much whether I shall watch after the first 35 or 40 episodes.

Deep pain in the rainforest

THEATRE

If you were asked to cite an instance of personal trauma transmuted into terrific drama, you would very likely come up with a play or plays by the mad, misogynistic Strindberg or the stricken O'Neill; but, as Sean Mathias's fine revival proves, Tennessee Williams's relatively obscure *Suddenly Last Summer* would make an impressive answer.

At the Comedy the piece occurs in a jungle in which giant artichokes appear to be copulating with twisted sea-urchins and vast Venus fly-traps with scorpions; and the jungle is not only Tim Hatley's imaginative idea of a garden in neo-Gothic New Orleans, but Williams's head as he felt it and Williams's world as he saw it.

Back in 1957 Williams wrote the play against his shrink's advice while in mid-therapy; and he packed it with key obsessions. He always felt that his prim Southern mother had destroyed his troubled sister, allowing her to be lobotomised simply to silence the obscenities she sometimes uttered. And here is Violet Venable, in Sheila Gish's chilling performance a purple-dressed, ginger-wigged blend of matriarchal vulture, antique belle and stony Medusa, insisting that a pioneering young surgeon grab her niece, Rachel Weisz's Catharine, and "cut this hideous story out of her brain".

And what's the hideous, obscene story? Well, it involves the death of Violet's cosseted son Sebastian, a poet who shared restlessness, promiscuity, even a growing taste for young blond men with Williams himself. Last summer his self-destructiveness led to his destruction, as the dramatist's friends feared would be the case with him. Catharine's wits have been churned by seeing his awful end, and his mother is willing to use bribes, blackmail, anything to ensure she can never again describe it.

The dramatic tension comes from two obvious sources. What happened that grim day in distant Cabeza de Lobo, and will Violet's wealth combine with the self-interest of Catharine's boorish family to prevent the facts emerging? But what keeps you spellbound is surely the quality of Williams's writing. There are two long monologues almost unmatched in drama for poetic power. First, Gish makes you feel the terror of the bleak volcanic island where she and Sebastian coolly watched killer-birds devouring newly hatched turtles as they ran to the sea. Then, Weisz vividly relives the white-hot afternoon in the white-painted town where the white-suited Sebastian was — well, let's just say that Williams came up with as extreme a metaphor for atonement as even his sense of guilt could concoct.

Sebastian, who never appears, sounds spoilt, greedy, even depraved, but unflinching in his quest for truth. Yet you never feel that Williams is merely confessing his own sins or analysing his personal psychopathology.

"It's a true story of our time and the world we live in," declares Weisz; and you believe her. Partly that is because she effectively transforms herself from a baffled human butterfly, crying "you want to bore a hole in my skull and turn a knife in my brain" as she flutters round the Venable rainforest, into a witness who blends quiet intensity with authority. But mainly it is because Williams had the human sympathy and metaphysical scope to look cruelty in the face — and make an unforgettable parable out of pain.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER



Feeling Southern discomfort: Sheila Gish (Violet Venable) and Rachel Weisz (Catharine) with Gerard Butler as Dr Sugar in *Suddenly Last Summer*

A war without peace

This new play by Goran Stefanovski could hardly come at a more poignant time. Set both in London — where Stefanovski, one of the leading playwrights of the former Yugoslavia, is now permanently resident — and a bombed-out Sarajevo, it paints a stark picture of the suffering inflicted on the soul as well as the body when a community is rent by civil war.

At its centre is Sara (Madlena Nedeva), a political asylum-seeker who wanders distraught and exhausted into a London shelter. There she is tended to by an eccentric assortment of misfits and victims, themselves trying to retain some dignity in the face of their own small privations and humiliations.

In her troubled sleep these new faces merge with memories of her former friends in Sarajevo, suffering and standing firm together as their city is ravaged around them. Rudy, the petty tyrant of a caretaker (a suitably snarling John O'Mahony), likewise mutates into her former lover, subsequently one of Sarajevo's destroyers and the cause of her exile.



Nightmares: Madlena Nedeva and John O'Mahony

Counterpointing the two locations and the daily indignities inflicted both on refugee and homeless suggests that, given the chance, atrocities can happen anywhere. Stefanovski finds many moving moments. "I didn't know I had a nation till all this started. Now it's your nation against mine," says Sara to her estranged lover. The precious seconds of normal life snatched amid a background of ever-present fear — a birthday picnic is brutally disrupted by gunfire — are brushed in with a delicate wash of melancholy joy.

But for all the play's nightmare-ridden depiction of painful memories filtered through a haze of suffering, his characters' stories are enigmatic bordering on the opaque, which tends to confuse unnecessarily. And while no one can doubt the almost painful pertinence of the play's admonitions about repeating the mistakes of the past, I have to say, too, that I found it all too portentous and over-larded with symbolism to be really dramatically involving.

Theatre Melange's tightly choreographed production tells the story with dance, song and poetry as well as a score for percussion by Xun Yin Dong, who adds in atmospheric effects on hauntingly shivering xylophone and warlike drums. The ensemble cast deliver their lines with a rapt, incantatory intensity.

This heightened, non-naturalistic style certainly suits the play. But it is not strongly physical or visual enough to add much meat to its meaning, and so is sometimes in danger of looking merely affected.

NIGEL CLIFF

Revenge of a she-devil

The White Devil
Haymarket, Leicester

As a creator of theatrical spectacle Paul Kerryson, the Haymarket's artistic director for most of this decade, has few equals. The large stage provides him with a grand setting for musicals, but with the far smaller cast of Webster's gory tragedy he sensitively uses the depths of space to enhance relationships, or against a great sweep of curtain places one actor to emphasise isolation.

His designer here is Emma Donovan, who creates at the rear of the stage an ecclesiastical façade above a flight of steps, able to serve as the background to a street scene, a courtroom or the interior of the Vatican. Jenny Cane (lighting designer) pierces the space with overhead lights diffused through mist, and in the sinister magic show directs white and red beams from below the stage, past the face of bad Lord Brachiano until they are lost in the murk above. Even in the second half, when the plotting becomes over-complicated, the sequence of spectacular tableaux continues to the end.

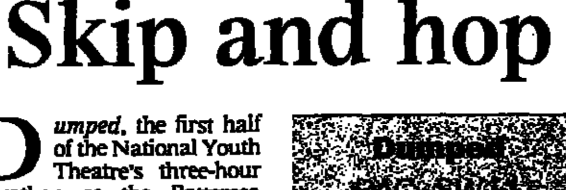
T.S. Eliot famously decided that Webster "was much possessed by death" and ten characters do die onstage. But what the performance by Kerryson's cast brings out yet more clearly is Webster's neurotic fear of women. All the bad characters are worse than Vittoria, the "white devil" of the title, yet anyone who wants to attack her, whether this be brother, lover, mother, servant, duke, lawyer or cardinal, delves deep into their mental dictionaries of sexual abuse and hurls the worst at her.

Of course her principal crime is that she fights back. Gabrielle Drake brings to the role a languorous, confident, mischievous smile, and how sweetly, as Brachiano says, she speaks her artful dream inciting him to murder. But when brought before the Cardinal's court she will not be cowed, and Drake masterfully charts her artful course between outrage and appeal.

The misogyny is underlined by the glimpse Kerryson gives us of a youth in some undress wandering through the Cardinal's apartments, and by a smoothly spoken performance from David Leonard as His Eminence, fond of turning on his heel so that his long skirts swirl. Claude Close makes a strongly authoritative Duke of Florence, memorably aghast at the news of his sister's death, and Richard Willis is a blunt, bold Brachiano.

Ian Pepperell looks mean and mercurial as Vittoria's malcontent brother Flamineo, although it is not easy to pick a way through the zigzags of his plotting. However, there is energy in the production, though some pruning of the rhetoric would be a good thing.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Skip and hop

Dumped
BAC, SW11

Dumped, the first half of the National Youth Theatre's three-hour marathon at the Battersea Arts Centre, is a new play by Daragh Carville set in Belfast, *Nigel Cliff writes*. More precisely, it is set in a skip. Living in the skip is Franco, a self-styled comedian who has been dumped (geddit?) by his girlfriend Julie. Franco thinks that taking up residence among other unwanted objects is just the sort of witty pun likely to win her back.

Unfortunately, the skip has already been claimed by local crusty Nick. Fortunately, Nick is desperate to be funny, so in return for some coaching he promises to help Franco to win his girlfriend back. They both fail. That's it.

You can imagine Carville being so pleased with the dumped-skip joke that he decided to weave a whole play around it. Predictably, the result is contrived. Most of the characters — Julie, her new marketing consultant boyfriend David and Nick's grumpy girlfriend Liz — wander on and off for no very good reason and to little effect.

There are a few flashes of wit and some sparky repartee between Sam Riley as Franco and Christopher Campbell as Nick. And there is a point lurking somewhere: that going through life delivering faintly amusing monologues is not a recipe for happiness. The performances are all enjoyable, but the young cast does not have quite enough confident charm to lift this material.

Kissing Angels, a devised piece by Maggie Kinloch, Peter Collins and the company, is more rewarding. Its cast of 21 split and reform into small groups, each representing a different type — the hard-drinking male student, the party girl, the keen-as-mustard middle-management trainee, the wife-beating factory worker and the lonely old grannie.

It all adds up to a thorough trawl through teenage anxieties and the need for freedom with nurture. There is some alarmingly high-flown stuff about being kissed by an angel and the like, but the ensemble acting is vivacious and well-honed, and the production whirls along.

■ POP OPINION
Sweden does it again

ARTS

■ JAZZ ALBUMS
A new Branford Marsalis

It's tough at the top, as the Cardigans are discovering. But exhaustion won't stop the biggest Swedes since Abba

Losing their favourite game?



CAITLIN MORAN

Pop music has always thrived on culture clashes. And, after taking one look at the Cardigans' dressing rooms at *Top of the Pops*, you immediately understand why the Swedish five-piece have been quietly knocking out some of the past two summers' most perfect pop. The boys' room is a student's bedsit via Calcutta: trousers and guitars all over the floor; the drummer asleep on the bursting sofa, and 12 congealing curries lying untouched on the table. The whole room minges of turmeric, cigarettes and sweat.

The dressing room of the Cardigans' lead singer, Nina Persson, on the other hand, is like an Estée Lauder clinic: diffused lighting, a bunch of lilies on the table, and approximately all the make-up in the world laid neatly out in front of a huge bulb-framed mirror. It's like stepping from a Third World shed into the Light.

And yet, when the band leave their respective bolt-holes and symbolically come together in the roaring smoky joy of the *Top of the Pops* bar, it becomes apparent things are a little more complicated than that. Persson turns out to have a thing for stinky old bikers' trousers, while her co-songwriter, Peter Svenson, is a fluffy, unashamed romantic who believes that love "can make you a better person".

"Hmmmm. I've learnt you can never change people," Persson counters, gimlet-eyed, staring morosely into her mineral water. "You end up exhausted, and the other person ends up bitter." A small, sad silence descends on the Cardigans' table.

The band have just come off a month-long tour of America. Ever since the dizzy, dandelion fluff of *Lovefool* ("Love me, love me!/Say that you love me!") was featured in the Leonardo DiCaprio vehicle *Romeo + Juliet* and sold more than three million copies worldwide, the Cardigans have been caught up in global schedule exhaustion. This touring-induced nihilism becomes apparent on listening to their post-*Lovefool* album, *Gran Turismo*: a sleek, hard-edged thing made for driving, neon and the kind of despair you don't have time to attend to. Both *My Favourite Game* and *Erase/Rewind*, two more recent singles, have had the metallic tang of stadiums about them. It's Ingmar Bergman dressing Garbage in steel. Lovely stuff.

However, as a consequence of *Lovefool* and the subsequent darker album, the Cardigans have been interviewed for a year and a half on the basis of two questions: "What's Leonardo DiCaprio like?" and "So, you want to kill yourselves?" This is why they are slumped around the bar table like caged animals waiting to be bored senseless.

So, having gathered they couldn't give a tinker's cuss for DiCaprio, and aren't planning to off themselves immediately — they're on *Top of the Pops* in 30 minutes — it feels like an appropriate time to deploy my greatest band-livening weapon: the Trouser Question.

"How much would I be prepared to spend on a really lovely pair of trousers?" Persson repeats, bemused. "Well, I actually was almost prepared to pay $1,200. They were beautiful!" She has the dreamy look a woman gets on her face when her brain has just turned into a catalogue. "Stitched leather with a crusader cross on each thigh. I'm not sure I would ever have worn them — I think I would have just hung them on the wall. They were wonderful, weren't they?" Svenson nods. The entire band were obviously overcome by the magnificence of the trousers.

"I think I prefer biker trousers, though." Persson leans back in her chair. "Real dirty padded biker trousers. Ones that make your ass look terribly huge, so you look like a hillbilly, you look like an elk."

Well, it's not every day you learn that one of the most lusted-after women in pop knows what an elk's bottom looks like in leather biker trousers. But then, it sounds as if you have to make your own amusement in the Cardigans' home town of Jönköping, a town so catatonically dull that its only notable feature is its 52 churches, situated in a country so deathly quiet that even royalty is reputed to go on awesome benders to relieve the tedium.

"I felt quite patriotic when I heard that," Svenson beams.

So, you're looking forward to getting home? "Well, kind of," Svenson replies. "But on the other hand, I worked out yesterday that if we carry on doing as well as we are, I can probably afford to retire in five years. And I don't want to. I want to carry on for ever."

I look around at the rest of the band slumped around the table, knackered and depressed. "Hey, you guys," I snitch. "Peter wants to carry on for ever."

"But of course," Persson says, looking puzzled. "So do we."

● *The Cardigans play Glasgow Barrowlands on April 27; Manchester Academy (April 28); London Albert Hall (April 29); Belfast Botanical Gardens (May 2); Dublin Castle (May 3)*



OK, everybody, ask the Cardigans what Leonardo DiCaprio is like, and why they want to kill themselves. Go on — they love being asked that

A breathless hush in the close

JAZZ
Jan Garbarek/Hilliard Ensemble
Cambridge

The pairing of a jazz saxophonist with a classical vocal group might once have seemed like a mischievous conceit. But, with the remarkable success of *Officium* in 1994, Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble turned an eccentric thought into a self-evident truth. And now, five years on, they have reunited to give the European premiere of a new work, entitled *Mnemosyne*.

The basic formula remains the same: the willowy interweaving of four male voices with soprano and tenor sax. But where *Officium* drew its material from a relatively narrow place and time, *Mnemosyne* draws from a timespan a hundred years before the birth of Christ to the present day, from Estonian lullabies to Basque folk-songs. And where before it was only the Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek who improvised, this time the Hilliard Ensemble occasionally extemporise too.

Despite these innovations, the result is similar: a drifting, shimmering soundscape. This is not music bent upon making a specific point; it is music intent upon creating an effect. And these effects are sometimes spectacularly beautiful, particularly when the performers use the acoustics of the building, making King's College Chapel a sixth instrument. At one point, countertenor David James left the platform and began to move through the audience, singing as he went. Voices and sax began a disembodied conversation, which ebbed and flowed across the audience.

There were several moments like this, when the combination of musical genres made a perfect but surprising sense, moments when the sound was more than the sum of its parts: the rumbling voices and lilting saxophone that opened the concert, and the glorious extended fade-out that ended it.

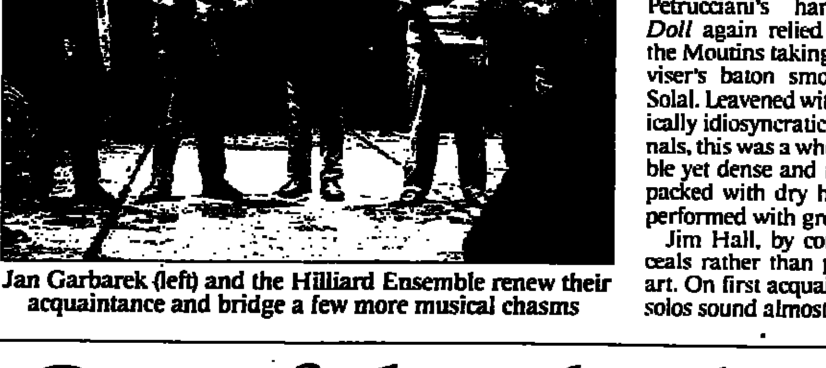
But there were other times when it was the components, rather than the whole, that caught the attention. These occurred when the singers and the saxophonist were playing to different rules. Sometimes Garbarek's interjections seemed to be offering a cheeky commentary on the Hilliard Ensemble's formal performance; on other occasions his flurry of notes seemed to tug and pull impatiently at the constraints which bound the singers. It was almost as if Garbarek was offering the subconscious subtext to the singing, revealing the emotional upheaval below the ordered surface.

You felt that the Hilliards should fight back, should lift their voices in response. But even in their restrained, respectful formality, these moments produced a sound which had a sinewy grace and elegance, and which fully justified this still surprising alliance.

JOHN STREET

DAVID SINCLAIR





Jan Garbarek (left) and the Hilliard Ensemble renew their acquaintance and bridge a few more musical chasms

Martial arts and craft



With little in common besides the fact that each has recently won jazz's most prestigious award, Denmark's Jazzpar Prize, the French pianist Martial Solal and US guitarist Jim Hall constituted a pleasantly varied double bill, the former all virtuosic wit and impish charm, the latter all subtlety and easy grace.

Solal came to international jazz prominence the old-fashioned way: by slowly building a reputation courtesy of his club work in Paris from the late 1940s onwards, backing visiting and expatriate Americans such as Don Byas, Lucky Thompson and Sidney Bechet as well as locals like Django Reinhardt. Such experience has made his approach to standards utterly individual: *Here's That Rainy Day* became a stately but discursive meander with frequent detours; *Summertime* was handled in pass-the-parcel fashion, the tricksy improvisation begun by Solal, then moving to bassist François Moutin before being taken up by drummer Louis Moutin.

A solo *Caravan*, delightfully fragmented, provided a fascinating contrast with the rambunctious tour de force it used to become in the late Michel Petrucciani's hands; *Satin Doll* again relied heavily on the Moutins taking the improviser's baton smoothly from Solal. Leavened with some typically idiosyncratic Solal originals, this was a wholly accessible yet dense and rich trio set packed with dry humour but performed with great brio.

Jim Hall, by contrast, conceals rather than parades his art. On first acquaintance, his solos sound almost hesitant — the tonal distortion, flamboyant runs and power chords of many contemporary electric guitarists form no part of his musical vocabulary — but then Hall's catchphrase has always been "Listening is the key", and some of his most telling playing occurs almost unheard, behind others' soloing. Chris Potter, on tenor, proved the perfect foil in this respect, building his warm, smoky solos carefully and thoughtfully, feeding off Hall's gentle prompting and lightly but firmly propelled by Scott Colley's agile bass and Terry Clarke's brisk drums.

The band's material — a delicately wafting Brazilian theme, the odd deconstructed standard, a couple of graceful blues and a closing nod to Bill Frisell — may have been relatively unremarkable; the controlled elegance and understated intelligence of its performance, though, were every bit as impressive as the sparkiness and sly ebullience of Solal.

CHRIS PARKER

Out of the shadows

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

DENYS BAPTISTE
Be Where You Are
(Dune Records DUNECD03)

HAVING spent the past few years lending his rich, powerful tenor sound to the bands of drummer Caroline Taylor and bassist Gary Crosby (both Jazz Jamaica and Nu Troop), not to mention J-Life and the Jazz Warriors, Denys Baptiste was more than ready for *Be Where You Are*, his debut recording as a leader, *Chris Parker writes*.

This lively album was worth the wait. Baptiste's own compositions range from the appropriately burly *Rollinstone*, dedicated to one of his chief influences, to groove music and sensuous ballads that showcase his affecting, warbling sound to perfection.

But he also performs an intriguingly Latinised version of Coltrane's *Naima* and contributes some telling tenor comments to the album's only vocal track, Juliet Roberts's searing, prayerful visit to Stevie Wonder's *Have a Talk With God*.

With vigorous support from pianist Andrew McCormack, bassist Larry Bartley and drummers Daniel Crosby and Tom Skinner, this album demonstrates why Baptiste has just been chosen to represent the United Kingdom at next month's European Broadcasting Festival.

BRANFORD MARSALIS QUARTET
Requiem
(Columbia 069655 2)

DEDICATED to Branford Marsalis's pianist Kenny Kirkland, whose sudden death left this album unfinished (although the unavoidable use of first takes gives it a pleasingly informal feel throughout), *Requiem* is the American tenor player's first quartet outing since he recorded *Crazy People Music*.

Those expecting the hectic, tumbling rumbustiousness of much of that album, however, will be surprised by the overall tone of this later recording, since much of it is inspired by the work of one of Marsalis's favourite musicians, Keith Jarrett. Alongside the floating Jarrett tribute *Lykief* and the slow-building Paul Motian theme *Trieste* there are flashes of the roilingly intense Marsalis quartet of old, drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts in particular throwing "a bucket of kerosene into the incinerator" — to use producer Delfeayo Marsalis's memorable phrase — whenever possible.

But generally the considerable excitement generated by the music relies more on the subtlety of group interaction, dynamic and textural contrast, than on the straightforward energy and power of yore.

■ **POP ALBUMS**
The return of Tom Waits

■ **TOMORROW**
Hot tickets in Metro

And the lads line up for a Reef kick

There's a refreshing whiff of the 1970s about Reef — not that the band know it. **David Sinclair** reports

If the secret of creative success lies in keeping the inner child alive, then Reef are clearly doing better than most. Wandering out one sunny spring morning on to a strip of artificial turf at the back of their North London rehearsal studios, the four musicians come across a gang of scruffy 12-year-old kids kicking a football around.

"Can we join in?" asks Reef's famously long-haired singer Gary Stringer, cheerfully. "Piss off, hippies," comes the swift reply.

The band take this rebuff philosophically and move on to another group of youngsters, who prove less hostile. And so, for the next half an hour, the 25-year-old Stringer (a supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers), drummer Dominic Greensmith (28, Ipswich Town), guitarist Kenwyn House (28, Southampton — "a painful admission", given the club's parlous situation at the bottom of the Premiership) and bass player Jack Bessant (28, non-aligned) charge around the pitch, stripped to the waist, like the overgrown boys they basically still are.

As one of the most obstinately old-school rock'n'roll bands that England has produced in the 1990s — and one of the most successful — Reef have been called worse than "hippies". Having grown up together in the area around Glastonbury in rural Somerset, they have been portrayed as country bumpkins and are often typecast as heavy-rock neanderthals caught in a late-1960s timewarp. But having learnt to roll with the punches, they can now take wry satisfaction in knowing that they have already outlasted many of their more once-fashionable peers.

> 'We've stayed around and we're as respected or disrespected as we ever were'

"What was fashionable when we started out is laughed at now," House says. "We've stayed around and we are as respected or disrespected as we ever were. At least if you are swimming against the tide you're a living fish and not a dead fish."

Having set out their stall in 1995 with a single, *Good Feeling*, which was used as the soundtrack for a TV advertisement for the Sony Minidisc format, Reef enjoyed initial success with their first album, *Replenish*, but truly hit their stride with the follow-up, *Glow*, a platinum-seller (300,000 copies) which topped the British chart two years ago. With hits such as *Place Your Hands* and *Come Back Brighter* they injected a distinctive 1990s swing into a blues-rock tradition associated with bands such as Free, AC/DC and the Rolling Stones. Indeed, as it has often been pointed out, Reef is an anagram of Free.

"Yes, that's right, it is," says Bessant, as if the matter might be in some doubt. "But that had nothing to do with why we chose the name."

This is typical of a curious sense of innocence which the band betray about the historical antecedents of their music. Stringer has heard very little of the Rolling Stones beyond occasional exposure to a greatest hits album belonging to his Dad ("They sound a bit American"). He cites the late Bon Scott as a particular hero, but has not kept tabs on AC/DC since the Australian singer died in 1980 (when Stringer, incidentally, would have been all of six years old).

The band talk with far more enthusiasm of artists such as Joni Mitchell, Jeff Buckley, Elliott Smith and Stevie Wonder, and while Reef are not about to mutate into a group of sensitive singer-songwriters, it is noticeable that on their third album, *Rides*, they have stretched out in new and sometimes unexpected directions. The current single, *I've Got Something to Say*, which dissolves into a *Hey Jude*-style singalong at the end, would be an acoustic ballad but for the wickedly funky drum rhythm, while *Sweetie*, which is mooted as the next single, is a decidedly mellow sort of song driven by acoustic guitars, violin, mandolin, handclaps and a lyric in which Stringer explores his inner feelings of awkwardness in certain social situations: "Often I listen when people are talking/I don't understand what they mean."

"I love your lyrics, Gary. I think they're fantastic," House says with unvarnished sincerity. "I'm very proud of every word I read on the lyric sheet. People haven't really looked at that. Because if they scratched beneath the surface of Reef's music they'd find some good words."

"Cheers, mate," Stringer says, basking in the midday sun, still shirtless and with his hand shoved, absentmindedly, down the front of his jeans.

But for those who crave the less cerebral pleasures of a raucous voice, a brutal beat and loud guitars wielded with hefty grace then other tracks on *Rides*, such as *New Bird*, *Wandering* and *Back in My Place*, do the trick as well as anything Reef have recorded so far.

They are, it seems, untouched by the usual spiritual and narcotic agonies involved in being "part of the industry of human happiness" (as one-time Stones manager Andrew Loog Oldham called the music business) and have shown a healthy reluctance to let the demands of the band encroach on their private lives beyond a certain point. Indeed, they have turned down a headlining slot at this year's Glastonbury Festival so that Stringer can attend his brother's wedding in Scotland.

"I enjoy going to the Glastonbury Festival more than I do actually playing it," Greensmith says. "Backstage is always really dull and posey and poncey, full of people pretending to have a good time and really not, and looking over their shoulder to see if anyone's looking at them. Whereas if you get out in the crowd and meet all your friends you can have a really good time."

Well, at least no one at Glastonbury is likely to bawl him out for being a hippy.

● *Rides is released on Monday. Reef play Portsmouth on May 3; Albert Hall, London (May 4); Plymouth (May 5); Stoke (May 6); Doncaster (May 8); Glasgow (May 9); Newcastle (May 11); Manchester (May 13); Shepherds Bush Empire, London (May 14). Booking for all shows 0115-912 9203*

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Not for the first time, rock throwbacks Reef — (from left) Gary Stringer, Kenwyn House, Jack Bessant and Dominic Greensmith — form a defensive wall

Cross between Don Quixote and a hoarse

POP ALBUMS

TOM WAITS
Mule Variations
(Anti/Epitaph 6547 2 £15.99)

SIX years since Tom Waits released his last album, *The Black Rider*, his influence pervades the work of such fashionable artists as Beck, Nick Cave, Gomez and P.J. Harvey. Even so, few performers are capable of making music with the narrative drive and sense of character that is second nature to Waits, and it is a joy to be able to report the master's return with an album that is on a par with his best work.

Co-produced and mostly co-written with his wife, Kathleen Brennan, *Mule Variations* finds the gravel-voiced storyteller, now 49, combining songs of gruff, romantic yearning with shambling portrayals of bohemian dereliction. On the one hand there is the bleary chant of the tramp in *Cold Water* "reading the Bible by a 40-watt bulb". At the other end of the spectrum are the gentle, sepia-tinted emotions of *Picture in a Frame* and the poignant sense of regret conjured in *House Where Nobody Lives*: "Once it held laughter/Once it held dreams/Did they throw it away?/Did they know what it means?"

In between lie shades of sound and emotion, from the tender, Springsteen-esque ballad, *Hold On*, to the spooky *What's He Building?*, a spoken-word evocation of prying-neighbour syndrome narrated over a patchwork of "found" sounds redolent of the instrument inventor Harry Partch.

With its slightly out-of-tune piano parts and some telling harmonica contributions from Charlie Musselwhite, *Mule Variations* has that marvellous, instantly weathered feel that graces the best blues albums. There is nothing especially new about any of it but, after such a long absence, one is simply grateful to accept as much of this stuff as Waits feels inclined to dish out.

ULTRASOUND
Everything Picture
(Nude NUDE12;
two discs £15.99)

FLOATED on a wave of self-generated hyperbole — "I seriously believe that we are the saviours of rock'n'roll" — Ultrasound follow up their "hit" (No 39) single, *Floodlit World*, with a sprawling double-album debut which suggests there may be something of promise in store if the band do not buckle under the weight of their own pretensions.

And excessive weight is something that Ultrasound's 20-stone singer Andy "Tiny" Wood knows a bit about. Having studied together for a music degree in Newcastle, he and three other members of the group have emerged with an unusually substantial body of musical knowledge tempered by an art-school approach, which explains this album's curious combination of progressive rock bluster and glam-punk attitude.

The result is a collection of patchy extremes, ranging from the brisk, Suede-like refrain of *Stay Young* to the apocalyptic, white-noise finale of the 21-minute title track, a sequence that makes even Spiritualized at their most extreme sound quite restrained. Some fine-tuning is still required.

TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS
Echo
(Warner Bros
9362-47294 £15.99)

NO LONGER the commercial force he used to be, but still very much in control of his rock'n'roll faculties, Tom Petty is a man for whom, musically speaking, the 1990s never happened. *Echo* is a compendium of elegantly crafted rootsy riffs and hard-luck lyrics which could have been minted at any time in the past 20 years.

Sung by Petty in his tough but world-weary drawl, heart-sore ballads like *One More Night* and polite rockers such as *I Don't Wanna Fight* will prove reassuringly familiar to rock fans of a traditional disposition. However, the lack of anything remotely resembling a contemporary hit single is likely to limit the album's appeal to those already converted.

THE CRANBERRIES
Bury the Hatchet
(Mercury 524 644 £15.99)

AS THE title suggests, *Bury the Hatchet* finds the Cranberries opting for a softer, more conciliatory approach than that of their last album, the hard-rocking, big issue-driven *To the Faithful Departed*.

But a querulous undercurrent still remains in the mannered performances of Dolores O'Riordan as her voice swoops around like a boat in a high wind on a succession of jingly-jangly songs with second-hand titles such as *Promises*, *Just My Imagination*, *Shattered* and *Delilah*.

Musically, they sound more like the Smiths than ever, while lyrically the clichés pop up like ducks on a shooting range: "Isn't it strange how people can change?", "The world is your oyster now" and so on. With or without the hatchet, they are a band for whom sympathy is in increasingly short supply.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(-)	Equally Cursed and Blessed	Catatonia (Blanco Y Negro)
2	(4)	Gold - Greatest Hits	Abba (Polydor)
3	(1)	Talk on Corners	Corrs (Atlantic)
4	(2)	Forgiven, not Forgotten	Corrs (Atlantic)
5	(3)	Performance and Cocktails	Stereophonics (V2)
6	(7)	I've Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
7	(6)	Step One	Steps (Jive)
8	(9)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fatboy Slim (Skint)
9	(8)	Gran Turismo	Cardigans (Stockholm)
10	(5)	Baby One More Time	Britney Spears (Jive)

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CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

LINKS

WEBSITES:
Ultrasound: www.nuderecords.com
Tom Petty: www.tompetty.com
Cranberries: www.cranberries.ie

TELEVISION:
Top of the Pops: BBC1, tonight, 7.30pm

RADIO:
UK Top 40: Radio 1, Sunday, 4pm

media times

Reform of an adman

Rupert Howell is set to bury the bad image of adland, says **Stefano Hatfield**

ADRIAN SHERRATT


Rupert Howell: "Ad agencies matter. We research the nation. We are the bellwether of the economy"

It is 1984 and the new red Ferrari 308 GTS is "gunned" up the drive leading to the Heinz building. As the Armani-suited 27-year-old adman swaggers out,an elderly security guard asks: "Sir, is that your car?"

"Yes," is the proud response.

"Then, sir, could you kindly stick to our speed limit in future," says the guard, reducing the adman to embarrassed foot-shuffling in front of Heinz's marketing men.

Rupert Howell, who this week became president of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA), tells this story against himself with a wince. He understands why admen came to be frowned upon by clients and public alike, because then he was the model of odious adman. Now, as IPA president, he is the man charged with guarding the image of the image-makers for the next two years. Howell, 42, must complete the process of leading the industry back to the position of trust and respect lost during the 1980s' excesses and the recession of the early 1990s.

the media interview

His appointment is not without irony. In 1987 he founded Howell Henry Chaldecott Lury (now HHCL & Partners), arguably the most controversial agency of the past decade. HHCL has won plaudits and opprobrium in almost equal measure for its work for First Direct, Fuji, Pepe, Mercury, Maxell, the AA, Egg and Tango, among many others.

HHCL questioned everything from methods of audience measurement to the over-reliance on volume-discounted media buying. It argued against the distinction between advertising and direct marketing and attacked the industry's predilection for big-budget films. Cynics said HHCL was all hype, seeking to get commercials made on the cheap, and that politically correct campaigns for the likes of Fuji were publicity stunts.

Howell, charged with developing the agency's business and promoting the talents of his partners, Axel Chaldecott and Steve Henry, and the strategic abilities of Adam Lury, took much of the flak. Oddly, he is criticised for his manipulation of the media and his obsession with the agency's image. He works hard at it, but he puts the secret of good press relations down to "returning phone calls". And it is for this quality among others that the IPA has skipped a generation and turned to him. Howell laid out a seven-point plan in his inaugural address at the Savoy on Tuesday. Issues ranged from the separation of media buying from creative agencies and the digital/e-commerce future, to the ad industry's regulatory bodies and the quality of agency and client recruits.

It was a bravura performance: if he does half the things he mentioned and continues with his day job, it will be some feat. "Ad agencies matter," he tells me. "We research the nation every day. We are the bellwether of the economy. I believe we'll never have a better chance to establish that fact."

He points to research that shows UK advertising has a 75 per cent public approval rating, record high. In America, it is 50 per cent. This, he says, is not just about the poor quality of the ads there, but an argument for keeping the BBC ad-free — a position at odds with the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers. "You have to be careful not to disturb the balance of the UK television ecosystem," he says. "There is an escape from ads in UK TV. In the US, there is no respite.

"I'd question why the BBC needs more money. It seems to have plenty of money to spend on people like management consultants and things outside its remit."

What he does want to disturb is the widening gulf between what is permissible in programming and what is allowed in the ads that interrupt that programming. This is a reference to the threat to toy ads posed by the forthcoming Swedish presidency of the European Union: the Swedes want to extend their own toy ad ban across Europe. Howell sees this as the only real threat from politicians. The Government has mollified its pre-election interventionist stance. There appears no immediate threat to the current system of self-regulation, although Howell accepts that the plethora of bodies is confusing and cumbersome. He advocates a single regulatory body for broadcast standards.

But Howell — the former public schoolboy who lives in Chiswick and is a staunch Tory — praises the Government's positive attitude towards the industry. He's just as optimistic about the industry's status in the City and among clients. "The majority of businesses and clients do think advertising is a vital part of their armoury. In the end clients come to us for the bit they can't do: the creative bit."

Howell believes that business needs to be reminded of advertising's effectiveness, but that it does not need convincing that it works. He understands the value of creating and sustaining a unique brand. He's done it for clients and his own business. Now he must do it for 12,750 IPA members.

"The 1980s were about work hard/play hard, but the image was just play hard," he says. "As an industry, we lacked subtlety and decorum. The recession was the corrective surgery — we are now a much better business."

● *Stefano Hatfield is Editor of* Campaign.

The war cries of dissenting voices

John Pilger and Phillip Knightley, two of Britain's most experienced international journalists, are among the signatories to a letter to *Press Gazette* this week criticising the British press for "largely" backing the bombing of Yugoslavia. Apart from a "few" voices, they say, newspapers have failed to challenge the rhetoric of the military and political elite.

They are wrong. There hasn't been a war involving Britain in the past 50 years in which so many sceptical or dissenting voices have been raised in British newspapers or in which editors have published so many articles dissenting from their own position, whether Korea, Suez, the Falklands or the Gulf.

With two of its star columnists, Simon Jenkins and Matthew Parris, disagreeing with the policy of the paper's leading articles, *The Times* is only one example of the open debate that editors are allowing. Jenkins wrote this week that Milosevic was a nasty job of work but he was not Hitler or Stalin: "He does not merit a Third World War."

Brian MacArthur PAPER ROUND

The most belligerent supporter of Tony Blair is *The Sun*. Yet Richard Littlejohn was given a full page last week to write his view that the free world had been led into an "unwinnable war" by a priapic draft dodger and a former supporter of CND (a criticism also made by Boris Johnson in *The Daily Telegraph*).

Other newspapers have been equally open to debate. This week there have been three articles in *The Express* questioning Nato's intervention: Stephen Glover in the *Daily Mail* and Andrew Roberts in the *Evening Standard* have agreed with Jenkins; and Paul Routledge, who knows Yugoslavia, is acting as *The Mirror*'s sceptic. Littlejohn noted another surprising feature of this war which is that *The Guardian* and *The Independent* are supporting the case for a ground war. Yet *The Guardian* also demonstrates the splits on the Left with Hugo Young and Francis Wheen supporting the bombing but Richard Gott and Seamus Milne opposing it.

By their concentration on the plight of the Kosovo refugees, as Young noted in *The Guardian*, newspapers and television have imported humanitarian impulses into foreign policy. "Not even during the Second World War," the veteran W. F. Deedes wrote in *The Daily Telegraph*, "did I witness a scene of human anguish comparable to what I saw yesterday on the Kosovan-Macedonian border".

Such reports have moved readers as well as politicians. Among the sums raised to alleviate the refugees' plight have been nearly £1.7 million (*Daily Mail*) £152,000 (*The Mirror*) and £86,000 by *The Sun*. *The Express* readers have given 1,200 tons of clothes. More than 5,000 readers responded to an invitation to call *The Mirror's* general, Sir Roderick Cordy-Simpson. By a tiny majority, they were against the war, according to Piers Morgan, its Editor, although their overwhelming view was that now that Nato is committed it has to win. One of their anxieties was whether Milosevic had the ability to target Britain.

One new morale-boosting weapon for British troops, who now have access to PCs, has come from *The Sun* which this week launched its own website (*CurrantBun.com*) (which, to digress, may come to be seen as the most significant development yet in bringing the Net to the masses. Already hundreds of thousands are applying.) On *thebunat war.co.uk* it has a "Kosovo edition" of news about the conflict as well as the usual "treat" from Page Three.

There has been no great lift in newspaper sales, except for the first day of bombing when *The Times* rose by 36,000 and 23,000 by *The Guardian*.



هكذا من الأصل

مكتب الاعلام

MIRROR GROUP





Battle joined: Bridget Rowe, left, shortlisted for the editorship of *GH*, and Elsa McAlonan, who is to take *Woman's Journal* into a new era

Seducing the over-40s

Middle-aged women have become sought-after magazine prizes. **Sally Morris** reports

Never has the 40-year-old woman felt so desired and seduced — by magazine publishers at least. Gone are the days when the glossy monthlies for 20-year-olds had all the fun with orgasms and nail varnish, leaving their older peers with Navy-blazer fashion and HRT. Now the fortysomethings are the prizes sought by editors, advertisers and the men in suits.

Why? Because there are so many of them and because of who they have become. Only this week, the women of Rylstone and District WI in Yorkshire starred as naked but decorous calendar girls, selling out immediately and sparking a sense that middle-aged women are not burnt-out irrelevances but a force to be reckoned with.

The battle for this market is illustrated by the changes about to take place in two of the most revered magazines aimed at this age group.

Woman's Journal, an IPC title fighting a 13.9 per cent fall in circulation to 100,000, recently sacked Marcelle D'Argy Smith, its Editor, and is about to "refocus" the magazine under the editorship of Elsa McAlonan.

At the National Magazine Company, *Good Housekeeping*, the homemaker's bible, is looking for a new editor and has added Bridget Rowe, the formidable former newspaper editor, to its shortlist. *GH*'s circulation, at 440,700, is also declining, and Pat Robert-Cairns, its current Editor, has chosen to take a part-time role for the company.

Both new editors face a difficult task, according to Joyce Hopkirk, whose own attempt to launch an intelligent, fortysomething magazine, *Chic*, ended in tears when it was bought by Northern and Shell's Richard Desmond, who promptly put it on ice. Hopkirk says: "It is a very fragmented market to crack. You can't just pigeonhole a 40-year-old woman these days.

"Some are almost grandparents, some are having their first babies, some are getting divorced or remarried, some are still single. Who do you focus on?"

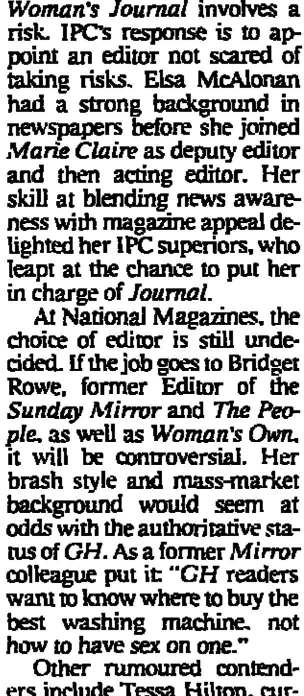
It is this very diversity that publishers see as a strength. Plus, of course, the demographic fact that this age group is growing. In a discussion document, Terry Mansfield, the managing director of National Magazine Company, outlines his belief in the potential of the age group. The figures are impressive: a 10 per cent increase in the number of women aged 40 over the next five years; and a 21 per cent increase over the past five years in women aged 40-plus who work full-time. That means, in most cases, more disposable income — to the delight of advertisers.

Mansfield sees GH as the catalyst to change the whole magazine market, and his written proposal sets out his vision. *GH* must use its pages to redefine what the home means to women today.

This is a crucial area for both magazines, whose traditional home role has been usurped in recent years by the explosion of interest in interior design and DIY. The popularity of glossies such as *House Beautiful* and the BBC's *Home and Antiques* proves there is a readership greedy for more.

Money is another area where women expect more informed and intelligent editorial. They no longer want to read about housekeeping budgets, they want to know the latest on personal pensions and the best mortgage advice.

The other important area is fashion — one of the quickest ways a casual reader can decide if a magazine's profile fits her. But it requires great creativity to redefine the pages when readers are conditioned to youth and beauty. *Elle* and *Vogue* have got younger in their approach, while magazines such as *Red* and *Frank*, which aim at intelligent 30-year-olds, are finding this a difficult audience to target and are also sliding down the age range.



The rivals facing change

Tina Gaudoin, the launch editor of *Frank* and now a freelance, believes the market needs to be created. "It's a bit like the rise of all these coffee shops. No one knew they wanted to buy expensive designer cups of coffee until the shops arrived. It's the same with the over-40s market. Women want to feel it's cool and sexy to be 40. But it needs to be done with wit and humour."

Whatever the demographic evidence, revamping trusted products such as *GH* and *Woman's Journal* involves a risk. IPC's response is to appoint an editor not scared of taking risks. Elsa McAlonan had a strong background in newspapers before she joined *Marie Claire* as deputy editor and then acting editor. Her skill at blending news awareness with magazine appeal delighted her IPC superiors, who leapt at the chance to put her in charge of *Journal*.

At National Magazines, the choice of editor is still undecided. If the job goes to Bridget Rowe, former Editor of the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, as well as *Woman's Own*, it will be controversial. Her brash style and mass-market background would seem at odds with the authoritative status of *GH*. As a former *Mirror* colleague put it: "*GH* readers want to know where to buy the best washing machine, not how to have sex on one."

Other rumoured contenders include Tessa Hilton, currently overseeing magazines at the *Daily Mail*, and Lindsay Nicholson, Editor of *Prima*, the bestselling women's monthly. On paper Nicholson would be the most obvious candidate, as *Prima's* mix of practicals, fashion and strong health coverage marries well with the *GH* formula.

Whoever is appointed, both she and McAlonan risk losing existing readers as they throw out the old and bring in the new. Rita Lewis, publishing director of IPC's fashion monthlies which include *Woman's Journal*, says: "We may lose some of our older readers, but we accept in the longer term there will not be enough of these to support a magazine like *Journal*. We must satisfy the more active, driven needs of the new generation of 40-year-olds."

Let the courtship begin. Women will win out all round.

● *The author is a former deputy editor of* Woman

Labour gets nasty in Scottish media war

Magnus Linklater on the blatant attempts to control press coverage of Scotland's election

The Scottish election may be bogged down in a mid-campaign rut, but in the media war all guns are blazing. Despite a comfortable lead in the polls, Labour in Scotland is betraying distinct signs of paranoia about the press, while the Scottish National Party is convinced it is the victim of a newspaper conspiracy.

Advertising has been withdrawn, charges of malicious fabrication have been bandied about, and at least one paper has been leant on by Downing Street heavies — a process its editor describes as "painful". As one Scottish journalist says: "Fear and loathing are rife in the land — situation normal."

The main victim of Labour resentment has been *The Herald* in Glasgow. The Labour Party has decided to withhold about £100,000 of its advertising from the paper on the ground that it has taken too accommodating a line with the SNP. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, is said to regard *The Herald* with thinly disguised contempt, as "an out-and-out nationalist paper".

> Herald lost ads worth £100,000 as Labour objected to its stance

This will come as news to former Tory ministers, who used to berate it for being uncritically pro-Labour. Now, however, it has gone "off-message". An early series of opinion polls showing the SNP forging ahead were said to have been "unhelpful", and when the nationalists launched their "penny for Scotland" tax campaign, *The Herald* was accused of taking too sympathetic a view. Almost alone among British papers, it supported the SNP leader Alex Salmond's attack on the Nato bombing of Serbia.

To use this, however, as evidence that *The Herald* is hopelessly biased says more about Labour nerves than it does about the paper. *The Herald* has been relatively even-handed, its main crime being that it carries the occasional pro-nationalist column and is not as harsh in its criticisms of the SNP as most of the Scottish press. "We're playing this election straight," says Harry Reid, its Editor. "We're open-minded about the SNP."

The chance of the paper actually coming out in support of the nationalists is remote. It would not, however, be surprising if its newly launched sister paper, the *Sunday Herald*, did. It has been showing some radical tendencies, and a leader last Sunday took a distinctly unfavourable view of the Government's handling of the crisis at Kvaerner Govan.

Lord Macdonald of Tradeston, the Scottish Industry Minister and former boss of the Scottish Media Group, which owns both the papers, was said to have been incensed. Before the campaign began, Scotland's biggest-selling paper, the traditionally Labour-supporting *Daily Record*, was highly critical of the Government. It even attacked Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who is usually accorded saint-like status, and last month devoted a two-page spread to Labour's attempts to control the media.

Now, however, it has fallen back into line, and has won the advertising lost to *The Herald*. The result has been to enrage the SNP. Last week the *Record* ran a story claiming that Salmond had fallen out with Mike Russell, the party's chief executive, over the Kosovo issue. Incensed, Russell said the story was a fabrication, and accused the *Record* of being nothing but a "Labour election leaflet". Martin Clarke, its Editor, concedes that the paper is backing Labour but gives a warning that if the party wins it can expect no favours.

The Scotsman has in the past attacked Labour's devolution plans and still finds it hard to endorse them wholeheartedly. But it is strongly hostile to the Nationalists, and is likely to come down in favour of the devolution parties.

So far no paper has come out to endorse the SNP, although the *News of the World* could be heading that way. Even *The Sun*, which backed the nationalist cause in 1992, has decided instead to give Tony Blair its support over Kosovo, leaving little room for an anti-Labour line in Scotland.

So far, Labour, for all its paranoia, has had the best of the campaign. The media have concluded that Salmond had a bad opening week, and that his party may be on the slide. But there are still three weeks to go.

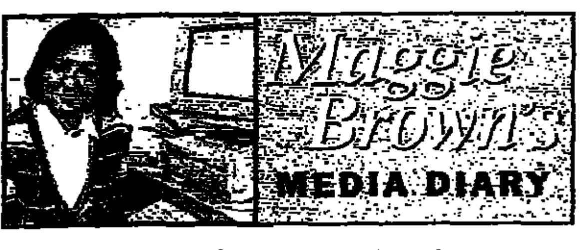
Since this will be the first election in mainland Britain to use proportional representation, some newspapers may well sit on the fence on polling day, and use their leaders to advocate ways of using the vote to ensure that a wide balance of MPs is elected.

Labour has not won many friends during the campaign. Its organisation is secretive, suspicious and hostile to the smallest sign of criticism. The idea that it might win an overall majority does not arouse great enthusiasm among those who have had to deal with the party at first hand.

And it would certainly reduce national press coverage of Scotland. As one London executive says: "If Labour walks it, interest is bound to fade. The nationalists . . . are the only thing that makes this election worth covering."



Sam is still the rights stuff



SAM CHISHOLM and David Chance, former bosses of BSkyB, are remaining as television rights consultants to football's Premier League.

This is despite the outcry over their controversial percentage pay deal, potentially netting them tens of millions of pounds, which led to the stormy exit of the chief executive Peter Leaver and the chairman Sir John Quinton last month.

In a vote at that time the club chairmen came out 19 to one against the payments. But, quietly, in a second vote a week later they apparently opted overwhelmingly (one insider says by 18 to 2) in favour of Chisholm and Chance being the rights advisers — if their price is right. Negotiations with a working party are advanced. Chisholm and Chance have a legal contract, and demonstrated during their reign at BSkyB that they play hardball. But with the Restrictive Practices Court case on the BSkyB/Premier League deal concluding in July, and pay-per-view football already under way, their expertise is clearly irreplaceable. Premier League sources say: "Renegotiation is going well."

■ *SUNDAY BUSINESS*, the Barclay brothers' niche pink paper, is doing well with sales at 60,000, on target for the 80,000 goal. But there's a worrying lack of ads. Whether this is the lag between a new launch and advertisers piling in, or whether it has been undersold is debatable. But Saturday night TV ad-spots have been dropped.

Andrew Neil, editorial supremo, says the paper will have to rely on word of mouth. "Chief executives [the paper's target] are not watching ITV on Saturday nights. They are out to dinner."

■ INTRIGUING to see Anne Wood, of Ragdoll Productions, creator of the *Teletubbies* (and *Tots TV* and *Rosie & Jim*) joining *The Sunday Times* Rich List. At £55 million, she ties in 446th place. Her secret? "She's very shrewd," says a BBC executive. "She does her own development work, and comes to us late in the day, which means she retains ownership of the rights." That way riches lie.

■ TECHNICAL trials for the BBC's new *Six O'Clock News* with Welshman Huw Edwards started this week for the May 10 relaunch. Dry runs are essential as the show is so complicated: there are 31 regional opt-outs, for local headlines to be inserted. For example, after a new theme tune, Edwards will read several national headlines then up pop regional presenters with their stories. The same thing happens at 6.15pm. The potential for cock-ups is huge.

●*maggiebrown.media@btinternet.com*

Why we need Simpson

John Simpson has been accused of unfair coverage of the Balkan war. His former colleague Martin Bell defends the man he says is steady under fire

We take our TV news for granted, much as we take so much for granted, including our peace and freedom. Most people have very little idea of the risks that reporters take routinely to try to bring them a truthful account of the wars of the world.

I have an idea of the difficulties confronting John Simpson on a daily basis. In his hotel room, to which he is largely confined, he is expected to file authoritatively for countless news outlets every day on radio and television.

Out on the streets, whenever the Serbs allow it, he will be the target of vilification and abuse by people who see him as a representative of the alliance that is bombing their bridges and refineries, and killing their people.

Warfare, journalism and politics have one thing in common. They all require steadiness under fire. To my mind, Mr Simpson has shown that quality in these past weeks. His report last week from Pristina, under tight deadlines and carefully controlled conditions, was a model of restraint and good reporting. I cannot believe anyone supposing that the British public would be better served if this kind of journalism were not available to it.

We have reached a point in the present conflict where we all need Mr Simpson's quality of steadiness under fire. The news from the Balkans is in many ways deeply dismaying. What our Government has to understand is that it is engaged not in a propaganda war, but in a defence of our values. These include a free press. That freedom should extend, without qualification, to reporting Nato's mistakes as well as its successes.

If civilian targets are hit in error, and civilian casualties are inflicted, this must not and cannot be hidden behind a smokescreen of jargon about "collateral damage" and "degrading" the Serbian military. We degrade the truth when we stoop to using these euphemisms.

We need a true and accurate picture of events. That includes, so far as possible, an understanding of the effect of the Nato bombing on opinion in Belgrade. If that effect is to unite the people of Yugoslavia behind Mr Milosevic, then we should know that. It is the unpalatable truths that are hardest to accept. And this is no time for self-deception. We need John Simpson, and the other British reporters in Belgrade, for as long as the Serbs allow them to remain there.

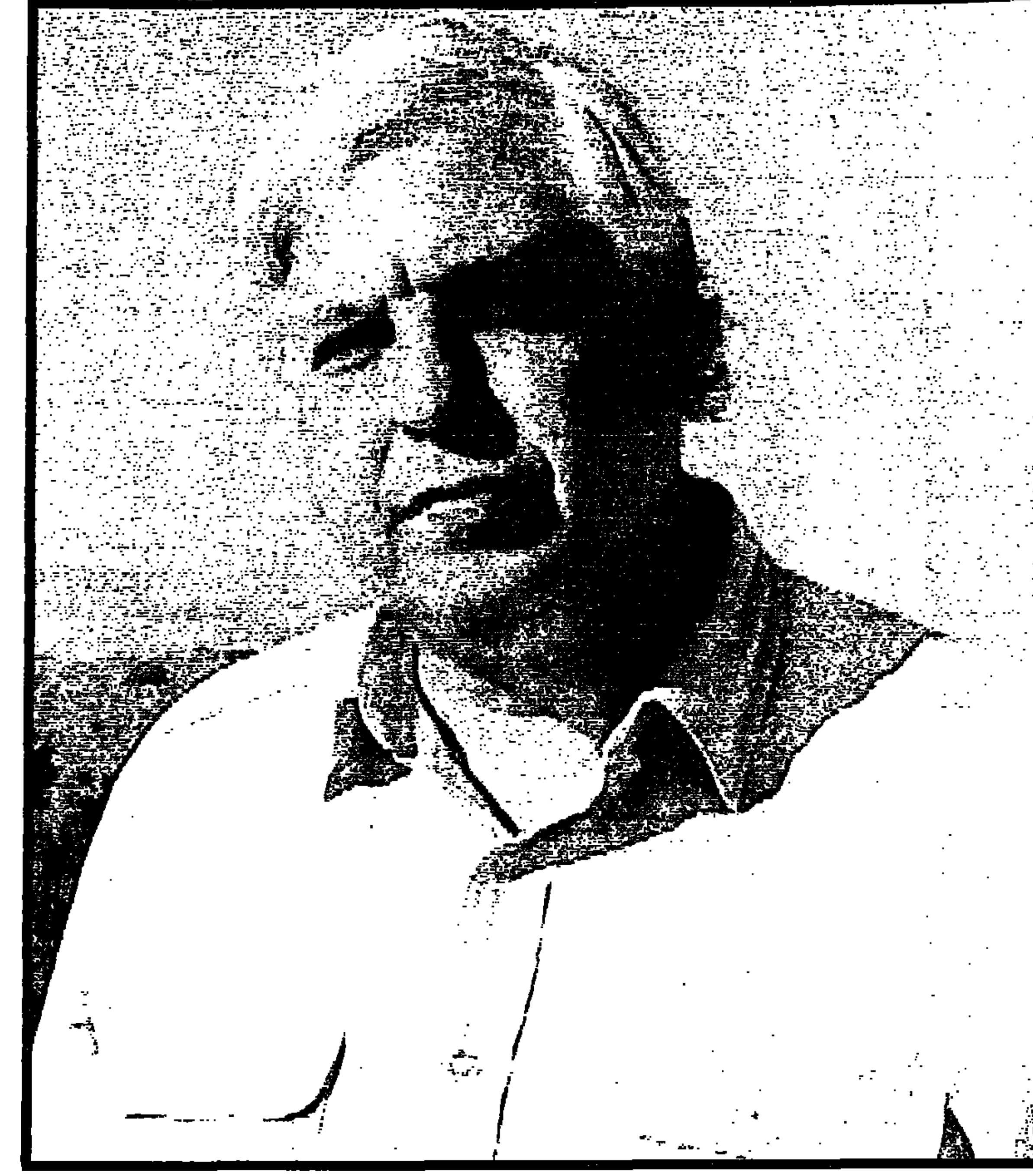
It is an interesting speculation, why Mr Simpson has been singled out for criticism on the home front. My guess is that this has something to do with his celebrity status. His work is the harder to dismiss or denigrate, because he has a reputation for being trustworthy. Such a reputation is hard-earned, over many crises and many years. In my view he is earning it still.

I am a supporter of the present military enterprise, although I believe now more than ever that if the bombing campaign is not followed by ground troops it will fail. History provides no example of unsupported air power achieving a decisive military result.

I hope that in the days ahead, as the Government ponders its options, it will reflect on this. I hope it will ease up on its propaganda campaign, and confine itself to the known facts about what is happening on the ground.

It certainly has no business attacking one of the BBC's most believable and experienced broadcasters. He has difficulties enough already, and deserves our thanks for soldiering on in adversity.

● *Martin Bell is Independent MP for Tatton and a veteran television war correspondent*


BBC NEWS

Simpson: his report last week from Pristina was a model of restraint and good reporting, says Martin Bell

Paying up for Auntie

The BBC is about to make the licence fee an issue again — by asking for more with even greater determination than Oliver Twist. In its so-far unpublished submission to the Davies Panel, which is examining ways to increase BBC income, the Corporation has come up with four different ways of making its case.

It has also discovered a new euphemism: there must be "buoyancy" in licence fee revenue, according to Sir John Birt, the Director-General, at a seminar on financing held by the Governors on Wednesday.

Raymond Snoddy

The four routes to this buoyancy are as follows:

Replace the present link with retail prices with a guaranteed formula — for example, a connection with soaring costs in the industry. The BBC recognises, however, that such a formula would fall increasingly heavily on the poor.

Tie the licence fee, at present £101, to gross domestic product. In times of low inflation this would produce more revenue than the present connection with retail prices. The third proposal is to attach the licence fee to every set in a household, rather than to the household itself. With more homes having a second and third set, the money would flow in a tidal wave into Broadcasting House. It would also be deeply unpopular and lead to increasing licence evasion.

The fourth option would be to impose a supplementary licence fee, possibly of £35, for digital television viewers. This one looks like a serious runner because it solves the problem for the BBC that the licence fees of the poorest in the land are subsidising new digital channels for the rich.

Although the BBC is coyly saying it remains neutral on which mechanism is chosen, Sir John is already leaning to the fourth option. "One of the virtues of a digital licence fee is that it falls only on those who invest in digital," he says. It would not be so eagerly embraced by manufacturers of digital equipment, competing broadcasters, or, indeed, the 500,000 or so households already receiving digital TV.

The danger for the BBC is that by asking for more, in whatever form, it will breach a tacit agreement. Most people will accept, some more grumpily than others, a licence fee linked to ordinary prices. By looking for "buoyancy" the BBC could disrupt that.

The hand-picked audience at the Governors' seminar had little difficulty coming to the conclusion that the BBC should have more, as long as the organisation was as efficient as possible. Reality intruded occasionally. A magistrate spoke movingly of single mothers being imprisoned for failing to pay their licence fee. That, said the buoyant BBC, was really a matter of welfare policy and the Government's problem.

Richard Stott, the former Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, has asked us to point out that in an article by the current Editor of *The Mirror* in Media Times, Piers Morgan used "misleading" circulation comparisons. Although the circulation was more than 200,000 less when Mr Stott left, this compares the high circulation month of April with the weak month of November. The April 1991 to April 1992 drop was 32,000, compared with 118,000 for the same period for *The Sun*.

Junor, the secretary and Selina



Andrew Cameron, managing director at Express Newspapers until 1996, recalls the day that John Junor was caught in flagrante in his office

Of the many editors I worked with at Express Newspapers, John Junor, Editor of the *Sunday Express* for 32 years, towered above them all. He was one of the few of whom it could truly be said that he was a legend in his own lifetime.

Knighted in 1980 for his services to newspapers (and Margaret Thatcher), this son of a Glasgow Calvinist steelworker held trenchant views that touched a chord with millions of readers.

He alone rode the rollercoaster of the Express group's changing fortunes. Virtually impregnable and well aware of his value to the paper, he survived and prospered as the group he worked for went through two traumatic changes of ownership. In 1977 the Beaverbrook family sold their birthright to Trafalgar House, and its managing director Victor Matthews took control. In 1985 David Stevens and United Newspapers bought control. In both cases, with very different men in charge, Junor managed to survive, showing the same obsequiousness and cunning that had served him so well with Beaverbrook.

When he died in 1997 he received the traditional memorial service in St Bride's Church in Fleet Street, the "parish church" of newspaper men and women. On such occasions little ill is said of the dead. But at times during Junor's service, the oleaginous nature of the tributes was almost too much. Rarely had the J.J. catchphrase "Pass the sickbag, Alice" seemed more appropriate. The real Junor was a very different man from the one his readers might have thought they knew. Many people who did know what he was really like simply stayed away.

There were no half-measures with Junor. You either admired him or loathed him; and vice versa. What no one questioned was his professionalism, no matter how quirky, at times eccentric, his editing could be.

J.J.'s expenses used to come to me for approval. They were extensive and often largely anonymous. In the column where he was supposed to identify lunch guests, he would write "Contacts known to the Chairman", though this was as meaningless to the Chairman as to me.

Every year, too, there was a golfing holiday in The Gambia, followed by flattering comments in his column on that country and its leader, a golfing companion. The costs were paid by the *Express* under an "Overseas Travel Allowance", which gave Junor the freedom to travel to where he chose as part of his untaxed remuneration package.

Yet when it came to signing staff expenses, Junor was famously tightfisted. I recall him discussing with me the expenses of Bob McWilliams, then news editor. "Andrew," he said, "For years McWilliams's expenses have been averaging three pounds ten shillings a week. Lately they have risen to three pounds fifteen shillings. Do you think he's keeping a mistress?" I laughed, but the smile died when I realised that Junor was serious.

> He was a great editor but a flawed journalist

Junor had a notoriously short attention span. Ted Westropp, the amiable if long-winded City editor, once came to see J.J. with an tale that even J.J. found hard to interrupt. He idly picked up a pair of binoculars he had bought for his yacht and held them up to his eyes. Westropp's flow began to falter. "Amazing," said Junor. "I can see the pigeons shitting on the roof of St Bride's Church."

He could also be high-handed. One day he called a new reporter named Perry into his office. "You have a wonderful opportunity here, Mr Perry. Play your cards right and I shall have your name up in lights. You can see it — 'Don Perry, *Sunday Express* Reporter'."

Perry's first name wasn't Don but Perry was too timid to correct him. So Perry's byline appeared in the *Sunday Express* as "Don Perry" for many years and as "Dom Perignon" in *Private Eye* spoofs.

J.J. took great care to befriend *Private Eye*. He and the Editor, Richard Ingrams, used to lunch regularly, swapping political and sexual gossip. This did not mean that Junor escaped Scot-free. Ingrams once parodied a piece in the J.J. column in which Junor had reminisced about a colleague from his RAF days whom he described as a "white-haired boy in a Nissen hut near Deal". Variations on the piece appeared again and again in the *Eye*, describing a "white-haired boy in a Nissen hut near Deal" in the most inappropriate stories. Junor was mystified, never realising that his mystification was itself the joke.



John Junor: "The old rogue had unsuspected charms. The secretary fell in love" — Selina Scott, the object of Junor's unrequited passion

Richard Ingrams: enjoyed gossipy lunches with Junor

Although his writings would lead you to believe that he was a model of propriety, J.J. had more than an eye for the women. At company functions, staff wives suffered his attentions. One who fell for his not-so-obvious charms was a young secretary. It happened in 1979, the year Junor celebrated his 60th birthday and his 25th year as Editor of the *Sunday Express*. The staff held a lunch in his honour, which was attended by Margaret Thatcher.

It was a good lunch and, like many good lunches, it went on and on. Junor stayed all afternoon and got completely pickled. He was fumbling at the dresses of almost every woman in sight, inviting them to return home with him. The secretary, in her mid-twenties and in awe of the great man, accepted. They went first to the office in Fleet Street, where Junor pounced. But they were interrupted in mid-thrust by the sports editor, Les Vanter, who wanted to show Junor a page proof.

They next headed to J.J.'s house in Dorking by train from Waterloo. But by the time they reached Clapham Junction, Junor's bladder was bursting. Unable to contain himself, the man who regularly scourged both drunken yobbos and British Rail threw open the carriage door and peed on the track.

So began a six-week affair, with most of the action taking place on Friday nights in the *Sunday Express* flat in Clarges Street. The old rogue must have had unsuspected charms, for the girl fell desperately in love and believed he wanted to marry her. She was devastated when Junor broke off the relationship.

> He threw open the train door and peed on the track

Perhaps by then Junor had his eye on a bigger catch — the glamorous Selina Scott. One day in spring 1980 he arrived in the office in such an uncharacteristically good mood that staff were curious. Over lunch with colleagues he explained that he had spent the previous evening with Selina. Later that day, the foreign editor, Peter Vane, caught him penning a letter which started "Selina Darling . . .".

When Selina came as his guest to the Boat Show lunch it was clear to those present that J.J. saw himself and Selina as an "item". I do not think there was anything in it, or only in his dreams; not least because of Junor's own description of her as "100 per cent her own woman and utterly incorruptible".

Although he was a great editor, John Junor was flawed as a journalist. He shied away from major hard news stories, preferring the role of behind-the-scenes wheeler-dealer.

Junor himself told the story of how, in the early 1980s, he was tipped off that Maurice Oldfield, the former head of MI6 called out of retirement by Margaret Thatcher to head security in Northern Ireland, was a promiscuous homosexual. The source, a very senior police officer, indicated to Junor that the hall porter in the block of flats where Oldfield lived would "sing like a bird" if asked about the heavy traffic in young male visitors to the Oldfield flat.

The policeman feared that no one would pluck up the courage to tell the Prime Minister that her chosen man was a security risk. Would Junor help? Of course he would. Junor immediately set up lunch with Margaret Thatcher's personal private secretary and enlisted her help in getting a letter to the Iron Lady. A few weeks later it was quietly announced that Oldfield would not be completing his tour of duty, and no doubt Junor congratulated himself on a job well done. At no time, it appears, did he consider what would have been second nature to most journalists; to print an exclusive that would have had the rest of Fleet Street chasing round in circles.

Whatever was happening, J.J. always knew best. In 1981 the then general manager informed him that Associated Newspapers was going ahead with the launch of *The Mail on Sunday*. Junor was scornful: "You have been listening to too much tittle-tattle in El Vino's. Let me tell you this — there will never be a *Mail on Sunday* — Never!"

Today, *The Mail on Sunday* is selling well over two million while the *Sunday Express* struggles to hold one million. And, of course, Junor spent his last years writing his JJ column for *The Mail on Sunday*.

NEXT WEEK
The expenses fiddlers and how I brought them to heel

Code to halt theft of ideas

BROADCASTERS have signed a code to prevent theft of ideas, says **Broadcast**. Commissioning editors must log and acknowledge proposals on receipt. Senior executives — including the BBC's Alan Yentob and David Liddiment for ITV — will police complaints from independent producers that ideas have been copied.

■ REGIONAL newspapers are launching a £3 million campaign to attract advertisers. **Campaign** reports that the first ads, stressing that one in four adults reads a regional paper, will run in trade magazines and regionals next week.

■ THE telemarketing industry grew by 29 per cent last year, with turnover rising to £510 mil-



lion. **Marketing**'s annual league table shows that the two top companies are SSL, a subsidiary of the Post Office, and BT CiB, owned by BT.

■ CHANGING FACES: Adam Higginbotham resigns as editor of *The Face* (**Press Gazette**). Carol Reay quits as deputy chairman of Grey Advertising (**Campaign**). Bob Geldof helps to form new radio and TV production company, 10 Alps; Rod Natkiel steps down as head of BBC network production in Birmingham (**Broadcast**).

■ GETTING the business: Abbot Mead Vickers BBDO to handle a £12 million campaign to allay fears of millennium bug chaos (**Marketing**). Environment Agency appoints Circus for £2 million flood-awareness campaign; Zenith Media wins £8 million media buying account for Littlewoods; Bozell Worldwide to handle £450 million international media business for Daimler Chrysler (**Campaign**).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

Fifa caught offside by fans

Stefano Hatfield

FIFA, world football's governing body, this week took the surprise decision to appoint London's HHCL & Partners to develop global brand advertising and make its name synonymous with football.

The news comes hot on the heels of stories about the International Olympic Committee seeking an agency to run a $100 million global advertising campaign. These initiatives show how far apart sport's governing bodies have grown from the people who ultimately pay their wages — the fans.

The Fifa decision was made by ISL, the Zurich-based sports marketing organisation which is Fifa's marketing partner. The brief is to highlight what Fifa stands for and explain its involvement with football beyond the World Cup.

Inherent in the assignment is a tacit admission that, fairly or not, Fifa has been damaged by publicity surrounding incidents such as the World Cup ticketing fiasco and investigations into the way the former President, Joao Havelange, ran the organisation. There is widespread concern among fans that the interests of sponsors and advertisers are being given precedence over the views of the paying spectator.

Although Fifa has not suffered anything like the degree of negative publicity endured by the IOC, it is a tough challenge for HHCL. Football fans need to have hate figures on which to vent the frustration that comes with a lack of success.

It is difficult to see how phase one of the appointment — to create a new image for Fifa explaining its role — will be able to counteract any potential new negative publicity. As HHCL will on one hand be working with the likes of Coca-Cola, MasterCard and McDonald's to develop sponsorship opportunities, and on the other developing specific initiatives to encourage children to become interested in football, conflicts are likely to emerge.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fifa needs a fresh image after the World Cup tickets fiasco

Nothing harms Fifa's cause more than the image of rich old men with fat expense accounts lecturing from platforms, purporting to know what's best for the average fan. Radical surgery to Fifa's make-up would achieve more than advertising.

■ LABOUR is about to unveil the most radical shake-up to hit party political broadcasts in years. Its two-and-a-half-minute slots on April 26 will consist of a series of five individual 30-second commercials running consecutively.

The early ads for the mid-term local elections each concentrate on different aspects of party policy including health, education and transport. All the commercials include the end-line: "New Labour, making Britain better."

■ IT was confirmed this week that Paul Simons, the TBWA London group chairman, is to be the new chairman of Ogilvy & Mather London. The appointment comes not a day too soon for the beleaguered O & M. Last year it lost Guinness and lead agency status on Ford, and saw the departure of BUPA. The bad news keeps coming: the Woolwich ended its 70-year association with the agency this week by switching to Publicis. Simons will have his work cut out to stem the flow, and a shake-up of senior personnel looks necessary.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign.

ITV's share of advertising revenue is falling year on year, according to the Independent Television Commission's review of commercial television revenue. Total net TV ad revenue was £2.8 billion in 1998, an increase of 39 per cent since 1994.

Although ITV still has the biggest share of the advertising market, cornering 63 per cent last year worth £1.8 billion, its share has dropped from 76 per cent in 1994. Channel 4 draws 19 per cent, and its portion has remained fairly stable in the past five years.

It is the growth of cable and satellite and the arrival of Channel 5 in March 1997 that have pulled adspend from ITV. Cable and satellite's share of TV revenue has grown from 6 per cent in 1994 to 13 per cent in 1998, by which time Channel 5 had a 5 per cent slice, worth £128 million. ITV's share fell most dramatically between 1996 and 1998, which is the period when both cable and satellite and Channel 5 gained most of their ground.

NET ADVERTISING REVENUE SHARE (%)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
ITV	76	74	71	67	63
Channel 4	18	19	20	19	19
S4C	0	0	0	0	0
Cable & Satellite	6	6	8	11	13
Channel 5	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	5

Source: Independent Television Commission

ITV's decrease in ad revenue share looks set to continue. The further growth of multichannel TV, precipitated by the emergence of digital television, points to an increase in revenue for the pay-TV channel providers.

Channel 5's growing viewing share, which was 4.7 per cent in February, is also likely to drive its share of revenue up in the coming years.

Subscription income, sponsorship and the sale of goods are included in the ITC's calculation of total revenue. Last year 84 per cent of BSkyB's turnover was from subscription income and just 14 per cent from advertising.

●*MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575)*

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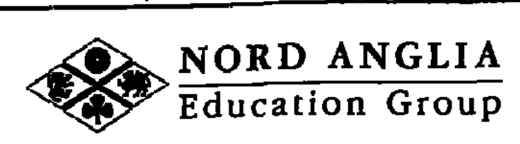
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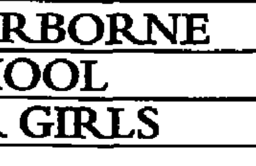
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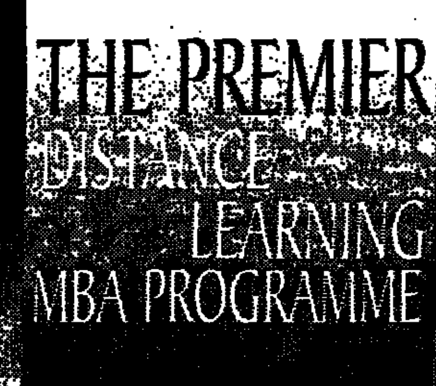
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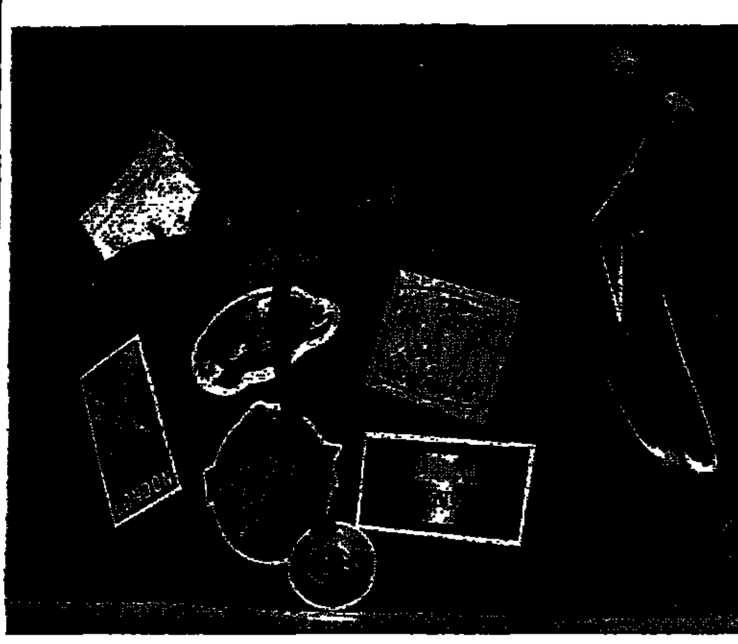
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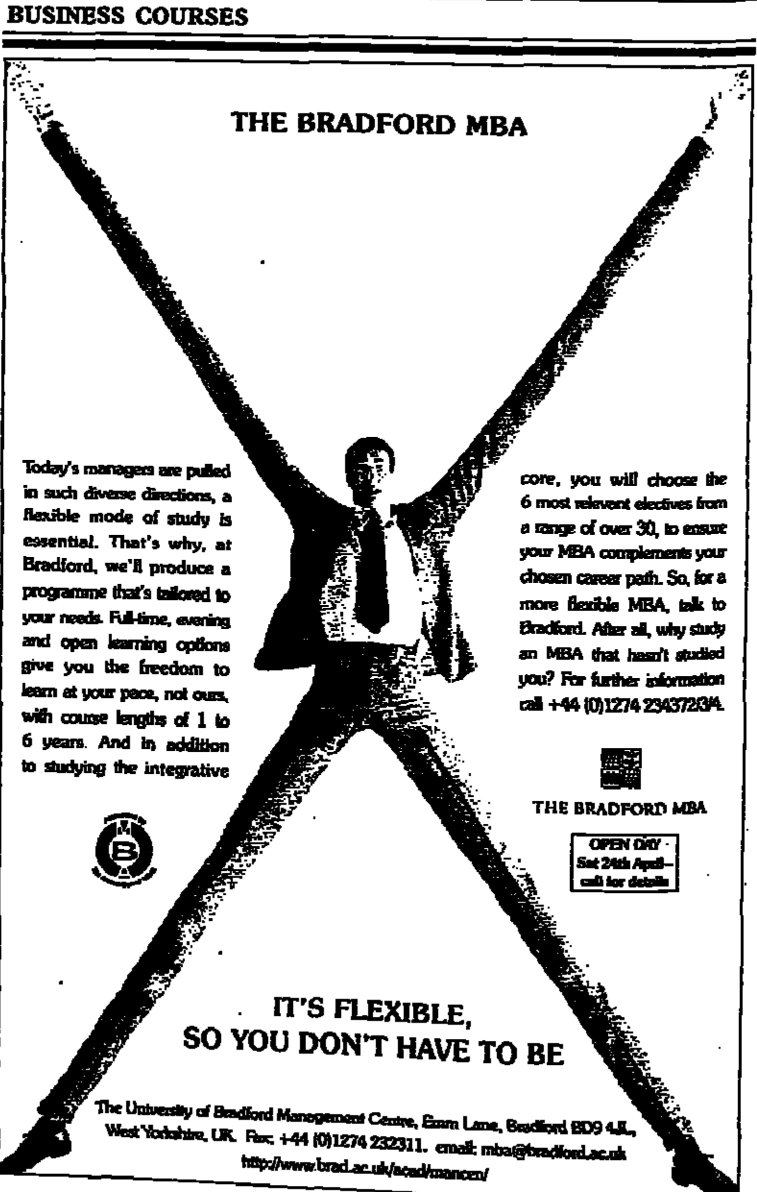
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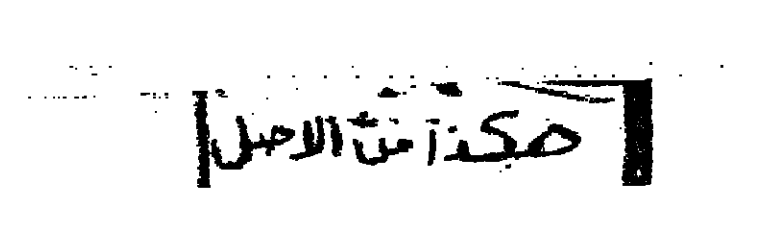
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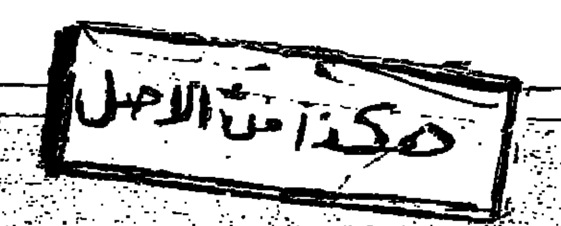


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EDUCATION

Why Celts have their own ideas about schooling



THOSE who have been arguing that the Government's penchant for control will make a nonsense of devolution have not been looking at the education agendas pursued in different parts of Britain. Education, education, education may be Tony Blair's top priority, but it can mean quite different things north of Hadrian's Wall or west of Offa's Dyke.

Labour's promises for the Scottish and Welsh Assembly elections underline the differences. Unlike those in England, all Scottish schools are being promised Internet access, four computers per class, and a laptop for every teacher. By 2002 three-year-olds are guaranteed nursery education and older children an after-school study place. Even the provision of classroom assistants will be more generous.

The party's manifesto for Wales also promises millions more pounds for nurseries and schools. It sets different targets from those in England and holds out the hope of a different system of post-16 education.

English educationists have long looked enviously at the system north of the border, if not in Wales. The Scots have always seemed to value education more highly than the English, staying on at school and going through to university in larger numbers. The sixth-form curriculum offers a broader education without the influence of A levels and, even if they are paid no better, teachers still enjoy something of the status that they have lost in England.

When Sir Ron Dearing was looking for a model for a more flexible system of higher education, it was the Scottish mix of courses and institutions which attracted him most.

Wales, too, has been ploughing its own furrow, although state education there mirrors England's more closely. As in Scotland, for example, there are no primary school league tables, no selection and very few grant-maintained schools. There are important differences from the English model in the literacy and numeracy strategies introduced in primary schools. At times, it is tempting to see the Principality as a laboratory for wider government policy. The Welsh version of the classroom assistants scheme, for example, was strikingly different from that of England, offering places to unemployed teenagers as well as to older, trained helpers. The message will hardly be lost on David Blunkett if the scheme is a success.

In reality, however, the differences may be more to do with the fact that local authorities in Scotland and Wales wield more influence than their counterparts do in England. It is possible that devolution will alter this balance of power and that there could be more central control of education from Edinburgh and Cardiff than there has been from Whitehall.

If so, the politicians will have to overcome some long-held beliefs. The Scots and the Welsh managed to resist some of the key Tory reforms and they will take some persuading to adopt the whole of England's test and examination-orientated agenda. When the controversy over national primary school tests was at its height, for example, a pressure group called the Parents' Coalition polled thousands of Scottish families. The overwhelming response was that not only did they oppose the publication of schools' results, but they did not even wish to know their own children's scores, if the tests went ahead.

Times have changed since then, but the Celts still have their own ideas about what they want from education.

CHRIS HARRIS



Gail Bristow studies the *Primary Planner*: "What I want are clear ideas of what my daughter, Marnie, will be taught in her first few years and how I can reinforce that teaching at home"

Explaining school to parents

What should the average child know at the age of 3, 10 or 16? **Virginia Matthews** looks at a series of new educational aids that tell parents what will be expected from their children

Government research suggests that nine out of ten parents want to become more involved in their children's education but do not know where to start. In an attempt to "demystify the education process", the launch of a series of aids for parents is launched this week.

The *Pre-School Planner*, *Primary Planner* and *Secondary Planner* are full-colour, A3-size files with advice on everything from dealing with the first day at playgroup to standing up to teachers. Compiled by educational experts, they give detailed information on what children will be taught in the national curriculum and what they will be expected to know as they progress through school.

Pre-school learning has three core elements — a 64-page parents' handbook, a learning book and 12 "creative play cards". The handbook covers key developmental stages: a three-year-old may be helped to draw a simple map showing his or her house and the seaside for example, with cars, trees and buses. This type of exercise, says the planner, could introduce times, distances and even a basic "understanding of the world".

So what do parents make of it? Paula Young, 35, is a former nurse from East Sussex, whose three-year-old daughter Tabitha has started at a private nursery in the village of Cross-in-Hand. She says that despite having "an entire bookcase on everything from toilet-training to pre-school piano playing", she found the *Pre-School Planner* fascinating.

"Most books about toddlers concentrate on head lice or bowel control. While the planner sometimes lapses into government-ese with phrases like 'desirable learning outcomes', at least the authors are talking to me about Tabitha's intellectual development. I also like the way the planner gives advice on talking to small children and helping them to make sense of the world around them. I don't always know how to pitch my conversation to her and the guide has helped me to think more about what I say to her and how."

But Ms Young reserves her highest praise for the section on personal and social development. "The planner talks dispassionately about the fact that human beings can be moody and encourages parents to be open with their children about what causes bad moods. The approach is a lot more thoughtful and realistic than some of the top-selling but dreadfully gooey parent and toddler books on my shelf."

For primary and secondary school children, the planners offer step-by-step and subject-by-subject guides to the national curriculum. Unusually, the curriculum cards include foundation subjects such as art, music, history and geography, as well as core subjects. In primary and secondary planners, practical advice is given on using computers and the Internet to help children with their homework.

Gail Bristow, a picture researcher whose daughter, Marnie, 5, attends the William Patten School in Hackney, East London, found the advice on the curriculum worthwhile, "although the information about choosing schools and bullying was repetitive and even patronising. But the planner has given me clear ideas about what she will be taught in her first few years at school and how I can reinforce that teaching at home."

A typical extract comes in the IT section at Key Stage 2: "Your child will be expected to become competent with the keyboard, typing with more than two fingers, cutting, copying and pasting . . ."

However, parents may find much of the content in the secondary planner insubstantial. Gill Hemburrow, an editorial secretary whose son, Alexander, 16, attends a Roman Catholic boys' school in Bexleyheath, found only two topics to interest her. "'By the time your child reaches this stage, you are inundated with advice on the curriculum, drugs and careers. The only new information was finding out more about the different bands your child can be put in at GCSE, and not to worry when your son likes to revise listening to music. There were also good pointers on how to revise."

Would parents buy the planners? "I think that the secondary planner is aimed at parents who have made no attempt to understand how secondary schools operate," says Mrs Hemburrow. "They will be unlikely to shell out £14.99 for an entire book on the subject."

But while Ms Bristow says she wouldn't pay £14.99 for the "peripheral stuff" on parents' evenings or PTAs, which is available elsewhere, she believes that a more comprehensive curriculum guide would be hard to find. Which raises the issue of why something so important isn't issued free to parents, just as books on babycare are issued automatically in the maternity ward.

● The Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Planners, *published by The Stationery Office at £14.99 each, are available from bookshops.*

Helping children to recognise abuse

Workshops are teaching self-preservation. **Danny Lee** reports

Child abuse is never easy to discuss. Most adults avoid the issue and find explanations difficult. But nine girls and seven boys in the sunny classroom of a Devon village primary school are having no difficulty in coming up with thoughtful descriptions of what an assault would mean to them.

"Assault is kind of like rape," says a ten-year-old girl. Then classmates chip in with other suggestions — it is anything you don't want to do; being bullied; when your feelings are hurt; when other people gang up on you.

The children are taking part in an anti-abuse workshop at the socially mixed Blackawton Primary School. Jenny Kinder, their head teacher, watches as they explain with impressive clarity their feelings about the risks they face.

"Where do you feel safe?" asks Clare Miller, the lead facilitator with the Devon Child Assault Prevention (CAP) project, who is running the workshop. "With someone I trust," says a boy. "With my Mum," answers a girl, shyly.

Ms Miller, who has been running the workshops for four years, is part of a team of seven conducting a programme in schools in the South. The workshops aim to build children's confidence and to help them to find their own ways of understanding and protecting themselves from abuse. They discover tactics that vary from saying no and yelling to kicking and hitting.

"In this way," says Ms Miller, "assailants will be discouraged from thinking of the children as their passive victims."

Central to the workshops are plays dealing with bullying, approaches from strangers and sexual advances from people known to the children. After a short play showing an uncle trying to get his niece to give him a sexual kiss with an offer of Rollerblades, the children are asked how they would feel if they were her. "Annoyed. Uncomfortable. Embarrassed. Pushed into it," are the immediate answers.

"And what if the uncle asks her to keep it secret? Must something we like be kept secret?" asks Ms Miller, provoking a resounding, "No."

"Is this a safe secret?" — "No." — "What is a safe secret?" — "A birthday present." — "Who can we tell?" — "Auntie. Parents. Teacher."

Each piece of simple theatre is performed once to introduce the subject, and again after the group has discussed it and been gently steered towards finding their own answers. These are then put into action in the second performance, which shows the child seeing off the would-be abuser.

"What if the person doing the bullying is younger than you and you feel stupid telling anyone?" asks one girl during the bullying section. "A person who is younger can still be scary, and it is never stupid to tell people," Sacha Roberts, the project co-ordinator, says.

CAP's methods have been welcomed positively by children, parents, teachers and healthcare professionals in the South West, and the project has just won a contract to try its scheme at eight Royal Navy pre-schools in Plymouth. There is also growing interest in copying it throughout the country and, as Elizabeth Gale, the Health Education Authority mental health project manager, points out: "The £35,000 it costs to keep all children in South Devon primary schools in a rolling CAP programme is the same as the cost of intervention in one or two cases of abuse."

Students catch writing bug from authors on the Net

MARTIN BEDDALL



Computers can put children in touch with authors

A new website enables children to communicate with their favourite — and formerly remote — authors. **Tim Rice** explains

Children can now get in touch with their favourite authors at the touch of a button. The website Writers Online is also encouraging pupils to write — and some are having their poems and prose posted for thousands of people to see.

Students get a kick from receiving a personal reply from writers such as Nina Bawden, and, say teachers who have introduced classes to the site, feel encouraged to write.

Every month a new writer or group of writers introduce themselves on the site with autobiographical information, details of what they have written, influences, how they write and an extract from one of their works. They then suggest something for the children to write and ask them to e-mail it to them. Everyone receives a reply.

With luck, the youngsters' work will appear on the site with a reply from the author. Or perhaps the author will e-mail the child directly. At Newland St John's Primary School in Hull, pupils discovered that Anne Fine, author of *Madam Doubtfire*, the book that inspired the movie, *Goggle Eyes* and other celebrated novels, was author of the month. She had chosen a passage from *Diary of a Killer Cat* and was subsequently bombarded with ideas from Hull about pets on the rampage. A number of their efforts are now on the site.

They did not get a direct reply from "their" author, although other children did. At Portsmouth's Court Lane Junior School, Nina Bawden, of *Peppermint Pig* fame, was then author of the month. She sent back a stack of responses to the children's descriptions of bravery.

Darren Nickerson, a year six teacher at the school, said that the children were impressed not only by having their own work read by someone they respected, but that having other children's work displayed on the site gave them ideas. By chance, David Orme, a poet and October Writer Online, visited the school during Literacy Week and encouraged the children to e-mail him directly.

The site has also proved useful in secondary schools, although finding time for it may not be easy. John Reeves, head of English at Blyth Ridley High School in Northumberland, set up personal e-mail "postboxes" for the children. Four out of five had their poems displayed on the site. One of his girls even won a book of poems.

This month's author is Trevor Millum, the short-story writer and poet who helped to set up Writers Online.

He says that although the website project is part of the National Year of Reading, the aim is to continue it indefinitely, possibly under the aegis of the National Association for the Teaching of English — as long as a sponsor can be found.

● *Writers Online can be found at* www.yearofreading.org.uk/writers

● *The e-mail address is* writers@actis.co.uk

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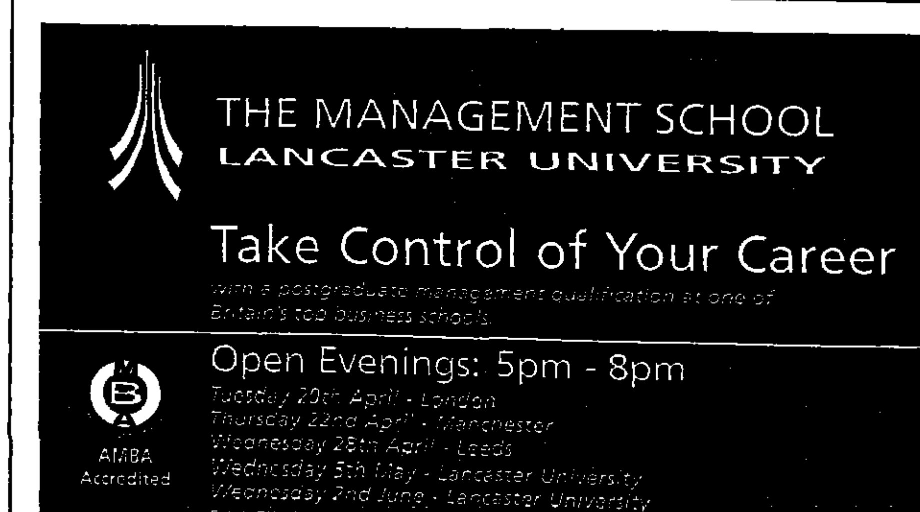
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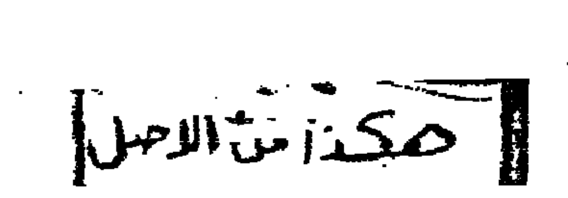
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RACING: FAILURE OF MUJAHID THROWS 2,000 GUINEAS MARKET INTO DISARRAY

Compton Admiral leaves Craven field in his wake

By Chris McGrath

HAVING been so unimpressed by tall reputations, if he is not careful Gerard Butler is going to end up with one himself. At Newmarket yesterday the young Irishman, in just his second season with a licence, saddled Compton Admiral to win the City Index Craven Stakes over the course and distance of the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas. Just as when the same colt beat Killer Instinct at Ascot last season, however, there was at least as much interest in the beaten favourite — on this occasion Mujahid, who had previously headed the betting for the classic itself.

So obsessed can the Flat become with words, rather than deeds, that bookmakers responded by making Killer Instinct as short as 4-1 favourite for the Guineas, with Compton Admiral widely available at four times the price. Killer Instinct makes his second visit to a racecourse at Newbury tomorrow, where he runs in a maiden.

The Craven, by contrast, has traditionally offered the safest of footholds on the ascent to the Guineas summit, albeit none has completed the double since Tirol in 1990. It is easy enough to quibble with the strict form of yesterday's race, with Mujahid clearly not himself and Debbie's Warning, a maiden, only 1½ lengths away in third. Nor has Compton Admiral grown into a towering physical specimen. Yet it would be more prudent to accentuate the positive in the performance of the Suave Dancer colt.

For a start, he will improve for the run, Butler having nursed him through one or two minor "blips" this spring. One could judge as much just from the way his surge from last to first under Frankie Dettori seemed to take its toll in the very last strides, at precisely the stage his stout breeding would otherwise help him elaborate his superiority. He had accelerated up the rising ground with gusto, certainly, and he has evidently resumed the progress interrupted by a setback last autumn.

REVISED BETTING

	Coral	Ladbrokes	Hills	Tote
Killer Instinct	4-1	6-1	9-2	9-2
Enrique	7-1	6-1	6-1	5-1
Orpen	7-1	10-1	8-1	12-1
Commander Collins	8-1	4-1	11-2	5-1
Compton Admiral	10-1	16-1	16-1	9-1
Island Sands	10-1	10-1	12-1	10-1
Auction House	10-1	8-1	10-1	10-1

"If he had made the Royal Lodge Stakes [at Ascot in September], you'd have seen what he could do," Butler said. "When he was second at Sandown, the ground was pretty firm and it was his first time round a bend. It was a learning curve for him, and for us as well, no doubt. We haven't had the clearest run with him this year, and he should come on a lot. He has really begun to get his act together in the last two weeks. Frankie wondered if we should make it a test but I said if they pull up to a trot early on, you pull up to a walk. He must be held up until he hits that rising ground. A good horse only needs two things: speed and more speed."

Butler, 32, is extremely modest and it must be left to Erik Penser, his principal patron, to offer a third ingredient. "You could not ask for anyone more dedicated and hard-working than Gerard," the Swedish businessman said. He certainly chose well when seeking a trainer equal to the marvellous facilities at his purpose-built Churn Stables, under the Ridgeway, though Butler's CV — embracing service under D Wayne Lukas and John Dunlop — must have abbreviated the search.

It will not be lost on Butler that his first group success should have been partly constructed on the fragmented hopes of his great mentor. Dunlop was mystified by Mujahid's display. "Richard [Hills] said he moved beautifully but three out there was nothing," Dunlop said. "He seemed to pull up fine and, while we'll do everything we can to find one, there is ostensibly no reason. I'm nonplussed."

Wishful thinking no doubt contributed to mutterings that Mujahid's defeat might see Aljabr diverted from Kentucky back to the Guineas. Another postscript to the race was definitely ludicrous, the stewards deciding to refer Ed Dunlop to Portman Square over the withdrawal of Mutaahab, like Mujahid owned by Hamdan al-Maktoum.

The trainer had gone to elaborate lengths to keep the public informed that the colt was only a soft-ground reserve, and to punish him would be the most pompous application of the letter of the law.

Ayr racecard, page 47



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Compton Admiral stretches out to win the City Index Craven Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

NEWBURY

ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Hoh Discovery
2.40 Schnitzel
3.10 Gipsy Rose Lee
3.40 Speed On
4.10 Salford Express
4.40 Vie Indienne
5.10 **SAUSALITO BAY** (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.40 **PAL OF MINE**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Schnitzel. 4.10 Bondosan. 4.40 **APPLE OF KENT** (nap)

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.10 EBF FUND BECKHAMPTON NOVICE STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,630: 5f 34yd) (9 runners)

101 (3) CD FLYER (Circular Distributors Ltd) M Channon 8-12 ... T Quinn –
102 (8) HOH DISCOVERY (D Allport) I Balding 8-12 ... K Fallon –
103 (2) 0 MUFFIN MAN 13 (Miss D Kerr) M Usher 8-12 ... R Perham –
104 (9) NANTUCKET (O McDowell) D Elsworth 8-12 ... N Pollard (3) –
105 (5) PORCINI (A Speelman) P Cole 8-12 ... J Fortune –
106 (6) RUSSIAN FOX (N Hodges) R Hannon 8-12 ... R Hughes –
107 (1) TOPMAN (Top Mafia Partnership) G Charles-Jones 8-12 ... T Sprake –
108 (7) TRAVESTY OF LAW (S Molloy) B Meehan 8-12 ... Pat Eddery –
109 (4) WHO DA LEADER (B Hackett) R Hannon 8-12 ... Dane O'Neill –

BETTING: 5-2 Cd Flyer, 11-4 Porcini, 7-2 Hoh Discovery, 5-1 Nantucket, 12-1 Travesty of Law, 14-1 Who da Leader, 20-1 Russian Fox, 25-1 others.

1998: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED.

FORM ANALYSIS *Muffin Man, a 50-1 shot when a well-beaten eighth of 10 to* Ma Yoram at Kempton on his debut, appears of little account. The market should provide a good guide to the newcomers, with the Grand Lodge colt Cd Flyer likely to figure prominently on the back of his stable's fast start with its juveniles. Preference though is for the Paul Cole-trained PORCINI. The stable boasts a first-time-out strike rate of 18% with its two-year-olds over the past three years and this son of Alzao is a half-brother to Irish juvenile winner Magarah and winners in Italy. Hoh Discovery, Nantucket and Travesty Of Law are other interesting contenders.

2.40 NATIONAL GOLF WEEK RATED HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] BBC2

(3-Y-O: £9,296: 1m 7yd) (12 runners)

201 (5) 04155- SLUMBERING 160 (G) (Mrs C Painting) B Meehan 9-7 ... W J O'Connor 73
202 (3) 041- PAGAN KING 176 (S) (Gap Partnership) J Toller 9-5 ... R Ffrench 71
203 (12) 001- SENURE 185 (S) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 9-4 ... T Sprake 72
204 (4) 210- CENTRAL COAST 181 (F) (R Carstairs) J Eustace 9-3 ... J Tate 66
205 (8) 002-2 TARAWAN 15 (BF) (R Hitchins) I Balding 9-3 ... K Fallon 65
206 (6) 421- CHELSEA BARRACKS 160 (D,S) (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 9-2 ... Pat Eddery 80
207 (1) 235- BADAGARA 185 (BF) (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) C Brittain 9-2 ... P Robinson 77
208 (11) 202- MT SPECULATION 186 (BF) (J Chapple-Hyam) P Chapple-Hyam 9-2 ... J Fortune 75
209 (10) 04312- MAYARO BAY 183 (BF,G) (J Shannon) R Hannon 9-0 ... R Hughes 90
210 (7) 021- PAL OF MINE 223 (S) (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 8-11 ... Dane O'Neill [illegible]
211 (2) 10214- SCHNITZEL 199 (BF,S) (Mrs G Rowland-Clark) M Bell 8-10 ... M Fenton 90
212 (9) 635-63 MY TESS 11 (J Graham) B McMahon 8-8 ... S Sanders 86

BETTING: 4-1 Chelsea Barracks, 5-1 Tarawan, 6-1 Senure, 7-1 Pagan King, Mayaro Bay, 8-1 Central Coast, 12-1 Badagara, Mt Speculation, Pal Of Mine, Schnitzel, My Tess, 14-1 Slumbering.

FORM ANALYSIS SCHNITZEL, from the in-form Michael Bell stable and the yard's lone Newbury runner today, can be backed on her reappearance. She showed progressive form last year when signing off with a 4l fourth of 13 to Melody Queen off this mark on the Rowley Mile course (7f) in September. Pagan King, Senure, Chelsea Barracks and Pal Of Mine boast similar profiles, with each winning in maiden company on their final of three starts last season. Of the quartet only Chelsea Barracks is proven over a mile, the John Dunlop runner beating Spoonful Of Sugar ½l at Doncaster (1m) in November with My Tess (3lb better off) a further 11l back in fifth. Senure was not extended to beat Ya Ain 1½l at Leicester (7f) and is weighted to confirm superiority over fifth-placed Badagara. Tarawan looks high enough in the weights.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
J Gosden	29	117	24.8	L Dettori	39	183	21.3
H Cecil	19	93	20.4	K Fallon	24	124	19.4
P Chapple-Hyam	23	130	17.7	W Ryan	13	78	16.7
P Cole	22	155	14.2	T Quinn	32	231	13.9
J Toller	4	30	13.3	R Hills	16	120	13.3
R Charlton	10	91	11.0	R Ffrench	3	26	11.5



READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing, J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

3.10 DUBAI DUTY FREE FRED DARLING STAKES BBC2

(Group III: 3-Y-O: £21,300: 7f) (11 runners)

301 (6) 21316- BOOMERANG BLADE 195 (F,G) (J Ford) B Smart 9-0 ... S Sanders 87
302 (2) 01- CAPISTRANO DAY 181 (D,S) (A Speelman) J Gosden 9-0 ... D Holland 60
303 (3) 44120- CHOIRGIRL 201 (D,F) (Cheveley Park Stud) J Gosden 9-0 ... L Dettori 86
304 (9) 41541- EVENING PROMISE 209 (G,S) (Mrs C Lees-Jones) B McMahon 9-0 J Fortune 95
305 (10) 112- GIPSY ROSE LEE 265 (F,S) (Mrs K Crangle) B Meehan 9-0 ... Pat Eddery [illegible]
306 (1) 63110- GOLDEN SILCA 199 (C,F,G,S) (Aldridge Racing Ltd) M Channon 9-0 T Quinn 97
307 (11) 4000-1 KUWAIT DAWN 30 (S) (Greenfield Stud) K Mahdi 9-0 ... J Quinn 66
308 (8) 313- RAS SHAIKH 225 (F) (S Bel Obaida) B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills 64
309 (5) 311- SAKHA 251 (F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0 ... R Hills 93
310 (7) 10- TRULY BEWITCHED 181 (F) (W Armitage) J Noseda 9-0 ... W Ryan 77
311 (4) 12150- WINCE 181 (BF,D,G,S) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0 ... K Fallon 85

BETTING: 7-2 Sakha, 9-2 Golden Silca, 5-1 Choirgirl, 8-1 Evening Promise, Gipsy Rose Lee, 10-1 others.

1998 (run on second day of meeting): DAUNTING LADY 9-0 R Hughes (9-2) R Hannon 7 ran

FORM ANALYSIS The performance of Wince will be closely watched if only to determine which horse Kieren Fallon will ride in the 1,000 Guineas. The daughter of Selkirk had Truly Bewitched behind her when around 6l seventh to Hula Angel in the Rockfel Stakes (7f) in October but looks short of classic standard and the champion jockey should be able to confirm his availability for Moiava after this. GOLDEN SILCA, largely in her stablemate Bint Allayl's shadow last year, can now advance her own Guineas claims. Her five victories last season included the group two Mill Reef Stakes (6f, beat Indiana Legend a short-head). Sakha represents the John Dunlop stable. She impressed when slamming Blue Melody 5l at Haydock (6f) in August but has plenty of speed in her pedigree and may prove best at sprint distances. Choirgirl boasts the stronger form of John Gosden's pair. She kept good company after winning her maiden last season and returned useful figures when a length second to Circle Of Gold in the Prestige Stakes at Goodwood (7f). Gipsy Rose Lee was not seen again last year after chasing home Mythical Girl (beaten 1½l) in the group three Princess Margaret Stakes at Ascot (6f) in July. Evening Promise revelled in the mud when winning the Firth Of Clyde Stakes (6f).

3.40 LAURENS VAN DER POST RATED HANDICAP BBC2

(£8,913: 5f 34yd) (14 runners)

401 (2) 10160- CORTACHY CASTLE 183 (D,F) (Mrs E Lerpiniere) B Meehan 4-9-7 Pat Eddery [illegible]
402 (3) 6304-2 BRAVE EDGE 11 (C,D,F,G) (Harris Vale Partnership) R Hannon 8-9-6 Dane O'Neill 114
403 (5) 1021-1 PRIMO LARA 51 (D,F,G) (Resplendent Racing Ltd) P Harris 7-9-4 P Goode (5) 116
404 (7) 00/00- BAY PRINCE 307 (D,F,G) (A Griffin) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-0 ... K Fallon 35
405 (8) 05-501 LEVELLED 9 (D,F,G,S) (Mr & Mrs G Pinchen) M Channon 5-8-12 (3ex) T Quinn 105
406 (6) 03050- MOON STRIKE 183 (D,F,G,S) (Miss I Foustok) Miss I Foustok 9-8-10 L Dettori 117
407 (10) 1600-1 BATCHWORTH BELLE 15 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Price) E Wheeler 4-8-9 S Carson (5) 106
408 (11) 010-10 DIL 22 (D,F,G) (Mrs N Macauley) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-5 ... P McCabe 114
409 (9) 00025- THE GAY FOX 174 (T,BF,D,F,S) (Mrs J McMahon) B McMahon 5-8-5 S Sanders 113
410 (1) 30-320 NIGHT FLIGHT 9 (BF,G,S) (C Stevens) R Fahey 5-8-4 ... J Quinn 115
411 (4) 3440-3 SYLVA PARADISE 22 (F,S) (E Greenstead Honda Ltd) C Brittain 6-8-4 P Robinson 121
412 (14) 06050- SPEED ON 173 (D,F,S) (P Deal) H Candy 6-8-4 ... D Sweeney 120
413 (13) 14/23- AT LARGE 310 (BF,F) (Half Moon Club) J Toller 5-8-4 ... N Pollard (3) 108
414 (12) 04-442 MANGUS 51 (D) (Danebury Racing) K Cunningham-Brown 5-8-4 P Fitzsimons (7) 106

Long handicap: Night Flight 8-3, Sylva Paradise 8-3, Speed On 8-2, At Large 7-13, Mangus 7-7.

BETTING: 5-1 Levelled, Sylva Paradise, 7-1 Dil, Primo Lara, 8-1 Speed On, 9-1 Batchworth Belle, Moon Strike, 10-1 Night Flight, Brave Edge, 14-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS Sylva Paradise looked a shade unlucky on his reappearance at Doncaster (5f), winning his race on the far side but finishing only third to Night Shot (Dil (3lb better off) another 1½l back in eighth and Levelled (1lb better off) 10th). Unfortunately the draw appears to have again been unkind to Clive Brittain's runner, and preference, at likely odds, is for AT LARGE. James Toller's charge ran well on both of his starts last year, most recently at Salisbury (5f) finishing 3l third of 13 to Sharp Stock, and Neil Pollard's claim largely counters the 5lb he is wrong at the weights here. A high draw in stall 13 is favourable. The form of Brave Edge's reappearance 1½l second to Hill Magic at Kempton (6f) was let down by the winner at Newmarket on Tuesday, and, like dual winter all-weather winner Primo Lara, he has plenty to do from a low draw. Batchworth Belle scored costly on the all-weather at Lingfield (5f) at the start of the month but has much more on at the weights here. Levelled has solid claims on his ½l beating of Pepperdine at Ripon (6f) nine days ago (Night Flight behind and held).

4.10 PETER SMITH MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £4,760: 1m 3f 5yd) (7 runners)

501 (5) BONDOSAN (W Said) H Cecil 9-0 ... K Fallon –
502 (3) 63 LAMERIE 15 (Stonethorn Stud Farms Ltd) R Hannon 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill 71
503 (1) OUTER LIMIT (R Sangster & A Collins) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Fortune –
504 (4) 55- PESHTIGO 199 (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills [illegible]
505 (6) 20- SALFORD EXPRESS 199 (A Thompson) D Elsworth 9-0 ... T Quinn 69
506 (7) THATCHROYAL (G Wright) S Woods 9-0 ... Pat Eddery –
507 (2) 00- TWO PACK 155 (R Gray & S Selby) B Pearce 9-0 ... Martin Dwyer 12

BETTING: 6-4 Bondosan, 3-1 Salford Express, 9-2 Outer Limit, 6-1 Peshtigo, 12-1 Thatchroyal, 16-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS Bondosan is bred to stay well, being out of Shirley Heights, and has been catching the eye of work-watchers at Newmarket recently. However, SALFORD EXPRESS can boast more racecourse experience and showed plenty of ability in two starts last term — chasing home the odds on Tissifer at Kempton (7f) when tenderly handled before finishing a fine seventh to Maidaan in a valuable sales race at Newmarket. Dehoush (who finished ninth). Surprise Encounter (10th) and Cassandra Go (16th) have already advertised the form of that race this term and, furthermore, Salford Express is bred to relish this longer trip. Peter Chapple-Hyam has a fine record at this course and Outer Limit, a Caerleon colt, is likely to know his job. Peshtigo, who showed promise in defeat last season, should pay his way this term but is up against it today.

4.40 BRIDGET MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,695: 7f) (10 runners)

601 (4) APPLE OF KENT (K Abdulla) J Gosden 8-11 ... L Dettori –
602 (3) BEGGARS BELIEF (M Page) J Dunlop 8-11 ... T Quinn –
603 (10) DANAMALA (A Kirshnan) R Hannon 8-11 ... Dane O'Neill –
604 (9) GENTLE DAME (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-11 ... M Hills –
605 (2) KITTIWAKE (Gestut Schlenderhan) G Wragg 8-11 ... D Holland –
606 (7) PASSE PASSE (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-11 ... M Roberts –
607 (6) PRESUMED (Dr C Stelling) P Makin 8-11 ... S Sanders –
608 (1) PURPLE FLAME (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 8-11 ... R Hills –
609 (8) SARAH'S SONG (Mrs S Roy) B Meehan 8-11 ... Pat Eddery –
610 (5) VIE INDIENNE (Miss K Rausing) I Balding 8-11 ... K Fallon –

BETTING: 11-8 Apple Of Kent, 5-1 Beggars Belief, 6-1 Kittiwake, 13-2 Gentle Dame, 8-1 Vie Indienne, 10-1 Passe Passe, 16-1 Danamala, 20-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS A race to watch rather than bet on. John Gosden has made a particularly fast start to the campaign and so Apple Of Kent, a half-sister to numerous winners at up to 7f, is bound to be popular. She is said to be working well at home and is napped by our Newmarket correspondent. Geoff Wragg, who won a similar race with Cassandra Go at Headquarters on Wednesday, runs Passe Passe (a daughter of Lear Fan) and KITTIWAKE. The latter is bred to be a cut above average, being related to the top-class Pentire, who Wragg also trained, and might be good enough. Beggars Belief (a half-sister to 6f winner Likely Story), Gentle Dame (a Kris filly out of 1m 2f winner Cascassi) and Vie Indienne (by Indian Ridge) are others worth noting in the market.

5.10 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH RACE HANDICAP (£6,320: 2m) (13 runners)

1 (5) /306-6 BENATOM 13 (D,F,G) (Lordship Stud) D Elsworth 6-10-0 ... L Dettori 93
2 (7) 00050- SAUSALITO BAY 209 (F,G,S) (J Smith) I Balding 5-9-10 ... K Fallon 97
3 (11) 25524- RAINBOW HIGH 183 (BF,S) (K Abdulla) B Hills 4-9-9 ... M Hills 83
4 (9) 15123- PAIRUMANI STAR 182 (BF,F,G) (Windflower Holdings) J Dunlop 4-9-6 Pat Eddery 95
5 (10) 10/06- CANDLE SMILE 218 (D,F,S) (J Bradbury) G Barnett 7-9-5 ... J Fortune 71
6 (6) 0004-3 HENRY ISLAND 21 (F,G,S) (J Hickford & M Hickford) M Pitman 6-9-5 R Hills 99
7 (8) 5004-4 TARXIEN 13 (C,G,S) (F Salisbury) Mrs M Jones 5-9-4 ... T Quinn 103
8 (2) 00060- CLOUD INSPECTOR 236 (F,G) (Markus Graff) M Johnston 8-9-2 D Holland 88
9 (1) 410/0- FOREIGN RULE 77J (S) (Mrs S McCarthy) J Jenkins 5-8-9 ... S Sanders –
10 (4) 3423/ BALLET HIGH 11J (Wholebuild Ltd) R Dickin 6-8-4 ... Dane O'Neill –
11 (3) 160-10 DANEGOLD 13 (D,F,S) (Circular Distributors Ltd) M Channon 7-8-2 S Drowne 101
12 (12) 0362-3 BRIDIE'S PRIDE 13 (D,G,S) (K White) G Ham 8-8-0 ... J Quinn 93
13 (13) 004-40 SEA FREEDOM 13 (V,F,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 8-7-13 Martin Dwyer [illegible]

BETTING: 5-1 Bridie's Pride, 6-1 Pairumani Star, 13-2 Tarxien, 8-1 Benatom, Sausalito Bay, Rainbow High, Henry Island, Danegold, 10-1 others.

FORM ANALYSIS A mini re-run of the Queen's Prize at Kempton (2m) last month as Bridie's Pride (3rd), Tarxien (4th), Benatom (6th), Sea Freedom (9th) and Danegold (10th) all meet again. Bridie's Pride is weighted to confirm the form but this front-runner might not be able to fend off SAUSALITO BAY. A progressive stayer the season before last, Ian Balding's charge was highly tried when mainly disappointing last season but there is plenty of evidence to suggest he will bounce back here. He's been gelded since the end of last season, has slipped to a favourable mark (2lb lower than when last successful) and will be ideally suited by this galloping course. Moreover, he will be re-united with Kieren Fallon for the first time since the combination clicked in the Melrose Stakes at York in August '97. Pairumani Star progressed nicely last term and finished off by chasing home Veronica Franco in the Autumn Cup here in September. He had Sausalito Bay 4l in arrears that day but the selection, 9lb better off, is expected to turn the tables. Rainbow High is not sure to get home while, in contrast, this trip may provide an insufficient test for Cloud Inspector and Candle Smile.

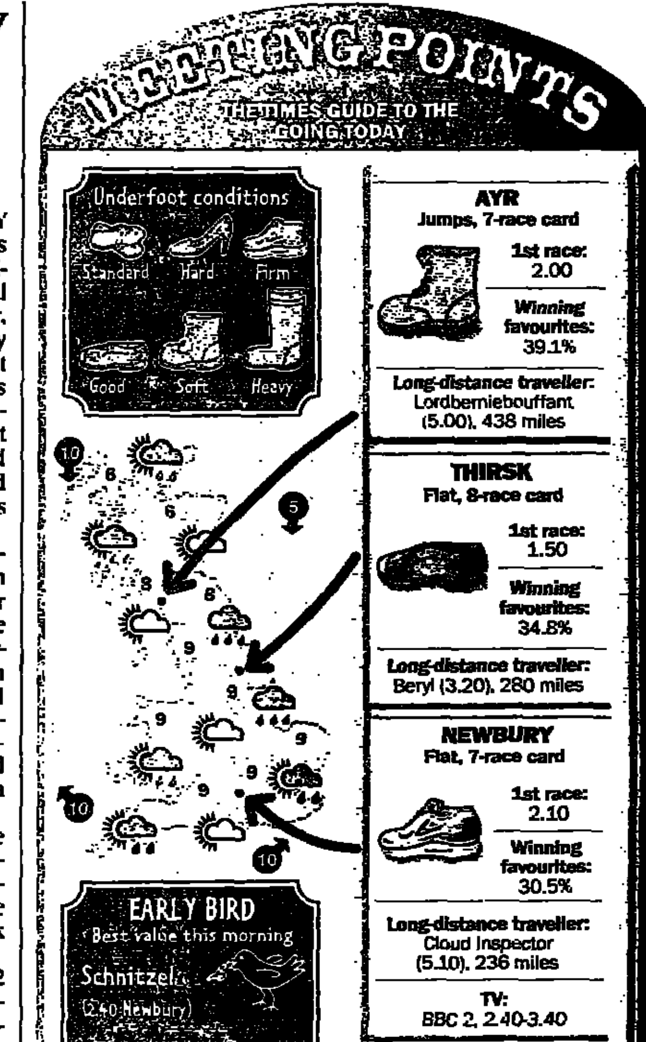
Dunwoody booked for Scotby

RICHARD DUNWOODY will ride Scotby as he seeks his first win in the Stakis Casinos Scottish Grand National at Ayr tomorrow. However, the former champion jockey will have to put up overweight on the nine-year-old, who has been set to carry 10st. Dunwoody rode Call It A Day at 10st 2lb in the Martell Grand National last Saturday, and expects to do just 1lb more this time.

Scotby's trainer, Bob Buckler, booked Dunwoody in place of regular rider Brendan Powell, who will be on the topweight and favourite, Young Kenny. "Brendan is confident he will win but I am getting him worried by telling him how well Scotby is — it will be testing ground and Young Kenny has to give us a lot of weight," Buckler said.

Tony Dobbin will replace Dunwoody on Prime Example, while Norman Williamson has been booked for the Irish-trained Hollybank Buck.

William Hill bets: 5-2 Young Kenny, 11-2 Clever Remark, 6-1 Scotby, 7-1 Hollybank Buck, 8-1 Tell The Nipper, 9-1 Prime Example, 12-1 Forest Ivory, 14-1 others.



THIRSK

ROB WRIGHT

1.50 Oriental
2.20 Willrack Times
2.50 Cauda Equina
3.20 Anthem
3.50 Killarney Jazz
4.20 Technician
4.50 Diamond Stealth
5.20 **Bow Peep** (nb)

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.50 WHITE SWAN AMPLEFORTH MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(Div I: £3,574, 6f) (14 runners)

1 00- BRIAN'S BLUE 419 B Baugh 4-9-10 ... A Culhane 8
2 3 ORIENTAL 11 (BF) J Gosden 4-9-10 ... G Hind 12
3 00 SILVER PRINCE 9 D Nicholls 4-9-10 ... Alex Greaves 4
4 BOLLIN ROLAND T Easterby 3-8-13 ... G Duffield 5
5 50 FAS 16 J Bethell 3-8-13 ... J Weaver 6
6 222- GET STUCK IN 176 (BF) Miss L Perratt 3-8-13 ... K Darley 10
7 00- PLEASANT MOUNT 212 Miss J A Camacho 3-8-13 L Charnock 14
8 TAPAUA M Dods 3-8-13 ... F Lynch 3
9 02- UZY 162 (BF) I Balding 3-8-13 ... S Whitworth 9
10 DURHAM DANCER T Easterby 3-8-8 ... R Winston (3) 11
11 0-00 FREE FINISH 11 (T) K Tinkler 3-8-8 ... Kim Tinkler 2
12 00-0 HOT LEGS 20 B McMahon 3-8-8 ... F Cochrane 7
13 50-0 MOUNTAIN BIRD 11 M Brittain 3-8-8 ... D Mernagh (5) 1
14 -030 TANCRED ARMS 16 D Barker 3-8-8 ... T Williams 13

9-4 Oriental, 11-4 Get Stuck In, 7-2 Uzy, 7-1 Durham Dancer, 14-1 Bollin Roland, 16-1 Pleasant Mount, 25-1 others.

2.20 FEATHERS HOTEL, HELMSLEY NOVICE FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,055: 5f) (9)

1 0 BEBE DE CHAM 11 J Eyre 8-8 ... C Lowther 6
2 BRILLIANCE DAWNS D Nicholls 8-8 ... P Clarke (7) 4
3 GOLD SEEKER D Barker 8-8 ... T Williams 2
4 KERRIDGE CHAPEL A Senior 8-8 ... R Lappin 1
5 KUUIPO B Rothwell 8-8 ... R Winston (3) 3
6 LA CAPRICE J Berry 8-8 ... K Darley 5
7 MIST OVER MEUGHER C Fairhurst 8-8 ... I Grantham (7) 7
8 SOUNDS FAB D Shaw 8-8 ... J Fanning 8
9 0 WILLRACK TIMES 13 B McMahon 8-8 ... R Cochrane 9

7-4 La Caprice, 5-1 Willrack Times, 6-1 Kuuipo, 8-1 Bebe de Cham, Brilliance Dawns, Sounds Fab, 12-1 Mist Over Meugher, 14-1 others.

2.50 HAMBLETON CLASSIFIED STAKES

(£3,795: 5f) (9)

1 00-0 ANSELLMAN 22 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-9-4 ... G Carter 2
2 23-6 CAUDA EQUINA 11 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 5-9-4 ... A Culhane 9
3 0-00 DOUBLE OSCAR 11 (B,D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 6-9-4 ... Alex Greaves 5
4 05-6 GAY BREEZE 17 (D,F,G,S) P Felgate 6-9-4 ... N Callan (5) 8
5 3-04 MUNGO PARK 11 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Dods 5-9-4 ... J Weaver 4
6 500- NAPOLEON STAR 177 (B,D,F) Miss J Craze 8-9-4 ... S Webster 1
7 000- SHARP HAT 225 (F,G,S) T Etherington 5-9-4 ... R Cochrane 6
8 4210 POLLY MILLS 8 (B,D,S) P Evans 3-8-8 ... J F Egan 7
9 030- FRILLY FRONT 161 (D,S) T Barron 3-8-5 ... K Darley 3

3-1 Mungo Park, 9-2 Double Oscar, 5-1 Cauda Equina, 6-1 Polly Mills, 13-2 Sharp Hat, 8-1 Gay Breeze, 10-1 Ansellman, Frilly Front, 25-1 Napoleon Star.

3.20 CRAB AND LOBSTER AISENBY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,003: 1m 4f) (7)

1 54- ANTHEM 188 M Jarvis 9-0 ... M Tebbutt 7
2 COLONIAL STATE P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... R Havlin 5
3 042- GOLD LODGE 203 S C Williams 9-0 ... K Darley 6
4 HERECOMESCHARLIE M Meagher 9-0 ... J F Egan 3
5 0-0 HUNTERS TWEED 21 J Bethell 9-0 ... J Weaver 1
6 TOTALLY SCOTTISH Mrs M Reveley 9-0 ... A Culhane 2
7 24-2 BERYL 11 (BF) J Dunlop 8-9 ... G Carter 4

7-4 Colonial State, 3-1 Gold Lodge, 7-2 Anthem, 9-2 Beryl, 16-1 Totally Scottish, 25-1 Herecomescharlie, Hunters Tweed.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: There are no horses blinkered for the first time today.

3.50 CARPENTERS ARMS FELIXKIRK HANDICAP

(£3,370: 1m) (18)

1 10-0 THE THRUSTER 22 (D,F) D Nicholls 4-10-0 ... Alex Greaves 9
2 0-41 THE WOODCOCK 16 (G) F Burke 4-9-13 ... N Callan (5) 13
3 061- EMPIRE GOLD 11J (D,F) A Turnell 4-9-13 ... M Deering 16
4 20-0 BACHELORS PAD 16 (F) D Nicholls 5-9-12 ... F Norton 17
5 060- LEGAL ISSUE 163 (D,F,G,S) B Rothwell 7-9-11 ... R Lappin 6
6 20-0 MARGARET'S DANCER 31 (T,CD,F,G) J Eyre 4-9-11 C Lowther 10
7 300- BOULEVARD ROUGE 174 M W Easterby 4-9-9 ... T Lucas 14
8 3442 KILLARNEY JAZZ 10 (B,D) G Chung 4-9-8 ... O Urbina 7
9 061- BOLD AMUSEMENT 165 (D) W Cunningham 9-9-8 L Charnock 11
10 40-0 LYNTON LAD 70 (G) E Alston 7-9-6 ... G Duffield 2
11 006- SMARTER CHARTER 175 (D,F,G) Mrs L Stubbs 6-9-6 K Darley 8
12 32-0 GABLESEA 20 (D,G) B Baugh 5-9-5 ... T G McLaughlin 5
13 5500 CZAR WARS 11 (S) P Dalton 4-9-5 ... R Havlin 1
14 05-0 LIFT THE OFFER 16 (D) J J Quinn 4-9-5 ... R Winston (3) 3
15 301- PENMAR 163 (T,D,S) A Mulholland 7-9-4 ... J F Egan 4
16 0000 ERUPT 11 (G,S) M Brittain 6-9-3 ... D Mernagh (5) 15
17 02-0 RA RA RASPUTIN 21 B McMahon 4-9-3 ... R Cochrane 12
18 05-0 COURT EXPRESS 10 (F) W Haigh 5-9-1 ... A Culhane 18

5-1 Penmar, 6-1 The Woodcock, 7-1 Killarney Jazz, 8-1 Empire Gold, 10-1 others.

4.20 NAGS HEAD PICKHILL HANDICAP

(£3,683: 7f) (16)

1 2002 REDOUBTABLE 11 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-10-0 A Culhane 15
2 506- STYLE DANCER 201 (D,F) R Whitaker 5-9-12 ... F Lynch 11
3 3210 RAMBO WALTZER 11 (C,D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-9-11 G Duffield 6
4 160- KNAVE'S ASH 188 (C,D,F,G) D Nicholls 8-9-11 ... F Norton 3
5 00-0 PIERPOINT 16 (F) D Nicholls 4-9-10 ... Alex Greaves 5
6 150- CELANDINE 175 (D,F) A Turnell 6-9-7 ... A Daly (3) 2
7 00-0 CUMBRIAN CARUSO 11 (B,F) T Easterby 4-9-7 ... K Darley 10
8 0000 THREADNEEDLE 27 (D,F) K Burke 6-9-6 ... N Callan (5) 14
9 00-3 TECHNICIAN 72 (B) E Alston 4-9-6 ... J F Egan 13
10 50-4 LUNCH PARTY 16 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 7-9-4 Iona Wands (5) 7
11 -300 COOL PROSPECT 11 (B) K Ryan 4-9-4 ... A McCarthy (3) 12
12 00-0 KNOTTY HILL 104 (D,S) R Craggs 7-9-1 ... C Teague (3) 9
13 000- ABERKEEN 234 (F) M Dods 4-8-13 ... Dale Gibson 8
14 0-50 OLLIE'S CHUCKLE 39 J J Quinn 4-8-13 ... A McGlone 16
15 00-0 YOUNG-UN 16 M Ryan 4-8-13 ... J Weaver 4
16 -000 HAKEEM 18 (G) M Brittain 4-8-11 ... D Mernagh (5) 1

6-1 Lunch Party, 7-1 Rambo Waltzer, Technician, 8-1 Redoubtable, 10-1 others.

4.50 WHITE SWAN AMPLEFORTH MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: £3,548: 6f) (14)

1 000- BLACK ORPHEUS 199 P Felgate 4-9-10 ... G Parkin 4
2 0- ROCKY STALLONE 336 W McKeown 4-9-10 ... D Pears 3
3 AGAINST THE BILL T Easterby 3-8-13 ... L Charnock 6
4 FRANCPORT J Berry 3-8-13 ... J Carroll 11
5 HOH HOH SEVEN I Balding 3-8-13 ... A Nicholls (5) 13
6 40- ROCKLANDS LANE 172 R Johnson Houghton 3-8-13 J Weaver 2
7 0 SILVANO'S EXPRESS 21 Miss J Craze 3-8-13 ... V Halliday 10
8 4- SULU 295 I Balding 3-8-13 ... S Whitworth 7
9 424- BOLLIN RITA 246 (BF) T Easterby 3-8-8 ... G Duffield 1
10 5- DIAMOND STEALTH 177 J Eyre 3-8-8 ... R Lappin 14
11 3-0 FAIRYTIME 20 J Arnold 3-8-8 ... C Lowther 9
12 0- LITTLE MERMAID 161 G Woodward 3-8-8 ... S D Williams 8
13 6 PURE ELEGANCIA 16 D Nicholls 3-8-8 ... F Norton 12
14 4 UNLIKELY LADY 16 D Barker 3-8-8 ... T Williams 5

11-4 Sulu, 9-2 Hoh Hoh Seven, 5-1 Francport, Bollin Rita, 10-1 others.

5.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (£2,920: 6f) (24)

1 630- PERFECT PEACH 240 (C,G,S) C Fairhurst 4-10-0 J Weaver 21
2 14-0 BRANSTON BERRY 34 (D,F,S) J Eyre 4-9-10 ... R Lappin 12
3 0-00 INCHALONG 16 (V,D,G) M Brittain 4-9-9 ... D Mernagh (5) 11
4 060- DOMINELLE 191 (D,F,G) T Easterby 7-9-6 ... K Darley 18
5 321- GLOWING 232 (T,D,F) J Fanshawe 4-9-5 ... R Cochrane 4
6 040- BOW PEEP 204 (D,F,G) M W Easterby 4-9-4 ... G Parkin 24
7 05-1 MISS GRAPETTE 16 (D,G) J Berry 3-9-3 ... J Carroll 2
8 0-10 EMMAJOUN 29 W G M Turner 4-9-3 ... M Tebbutt 7
9 10-0 CLASS WAN 20 (D,G,S) J Goldie 3-9-2 ... A Culhane 17
10 00/0 BLUSHING VICTORIA 10 (F) J Glover 4-8-13 ... S D Williams 8
11 2123 CARRIE POOTER 18 (B,D,F) T Barron 3-8-11 ... D Pears 22
12 150- PLEASURE 147 (S) A Smith 4-8-10 ... R FitzPatrick (5) 15
13 010- PATSY CULSYTH 220 (S) Enrico Incisa 4-8-3 ... Kim Tinkler 6
14 1-00 HILTONS EXECUTIVE 31 (D,F) E Alston 5-8-3 ... L Charnock 9
15 000- MISS ELIMINATOR 307 (G) J L Harris 4-8-3 ... G Duffield 23
16 05-5 WESTWOOD VIEW 16 J J Quinn 3-8-2 ... J F Egan 10
17 5020 GENERAL KLAIRE 20 (D) B McMahon 4-8-2 ... P Fessey 3
18 4200 HEAVENLY MISS 25 (B,D,F) D Shaw 5-7-12 ... J Fanning 20
19 000- MISS VIVIEN 163 (D,F) Miss L Perratt 4-7-11 ... N Kennedy 13
20 600- ARCHELLO 209 (F) M Brittain 5-7-11 ... G Bardwell 19
21 004- FLAXEN PRIDE 240 Mrs M Reveley 4-7-10 ... Dale Gibson 5
22 2020 RIVER ENSIGN 20 (CD,G) W Brisbourne 6-7-10 P M Quinn (7) 1
23 -062 DONA FILIPA 20 (D,F,S) Mrs L Siddall 6-7-10 ... F Norton 14
24 1100 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 52 (CD) D Barker 7-7-10 J McAuley (7) 16

13-2 Carrie Pooter, 8-1 Miss Grapette, 10-1 Dominelle, Glowing, 12-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newmarket

Going: good

2.05 (1m 2f) 1, **Moutahddee** (L Dettori, 4-1); 2, Hoh No (12-1); 3, Gino's Spirits (16-1). Agiotage 7-2 fav. 13 ran. ½l, ½l. M Tregoning. Tote £4.10; £2.20, £2.60, £3.30. DF £25.90. CSF £45.35. Tricast: £636.50.

2.35 (1m 110yd) 1, **Golden Snake** (M Hills, 11-2); 2, Gold Academy (10-1); 3, Housemaster (7-1). Markan (4th) 2-1 fav. 9 ran. ½l, 1½l. B Hills. Tote £5.30; £1.90, £2.30, £2.00. DF £14.60. CSF £50.98.

3.10 (1m) 1, **Compton Admiral** (L Dettori, 13-2); 2, Brancaster (6-1); 3, Debbie's Warning (66-1). Mujahid (5th) 2-5 fav. 7 ran. NR: Mutaahab. 1l, ½l. G Butler. Tote £5.80; £1.50, £2.10. DF £15.00. CSF £34.45.

3.45 (6f) 1, **Munjiz** (M Hills, 9-1); 2, Mitcham (11-1); 3, Emwine (9-1). Candleggs (6th) 9-4 fav. 15 ran. Hd, 2l. B Hills. Tote £11.10; £3.60, £3.80, £2.50. DF £34.20. Tote Trifecta: £761.00. CSF: £87.36. Tricast: £862.60.

4.15 (7f) 1, **Date** (K Fallon, 9-2); 2, Northern Spring (8-1); 3, Gemini Guest (20-1). Swallow Flight (5th) 5-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: Victory Spin. Sh hd, hd. E Dunlop. Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £1.30, £3.90. DF £21.60. CSF £33.02.

4.45 (5f) 1, **Alfailak** (T Quinn, 2-1 fav); 2, Sheer Sabo (12-1); 3, Great White (20-1). 10 ran. 2l, nk. M Channon. Tote £2.70; £1.60, £3.30, £3.30. DF £18.90. CSF £27.28.

5.20 (5f) 1, **First Blood** (T Quinn, 4-1); 2, Barringer (4-1); 3, Singsong (7-2). Saafend Boy (6th) 3-1 fav. 8 ran. 1½l, sh hd. T Mills. Tote £4.70; £1.60, £1.40, £2.10. DF £4.20. CSF £18.00.

Jackpot: £52,666.90 - part won (pool of £45,990.85 carried forward to Newbury today).

Placepot: £1,093.40. Quadpot: £103.90.

Ripon

Going: good

2.10 (5f) 1, **Hammer And Sickle** (D Holland, 15-2); 2, Connect (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Uncle Exact (8-1). Jemima (6th) 5-2 jt-fav. 11 ran. Sh hd, 2l. M Johnston. Tote: £5.00; £2.10, £1.40, £4.30. DF £6.10. CSF £25.84.

2.45 (5f) 1, **Angle Baby** (Iona Wands, 10-11 fav); 2, Ambitious (4-1); 3, Venture Capitalist (6-1). 10 ran. 1½l, 1l. J Berry. Tote £2.00; £1.60, £1.60, £1.10. DF £4.10. CSF: £4.21.

3.20 (1m) 1, **Prairie Wolf** (M Fenton, 6-1); 2, Justupyourstreet (16-1); 3, Indian Plume (12-1). Azzen (4th) 11-8 fav. 13 ran. ½l, ½l. M Bell. Tote £7.50; £1.70, £4.60, £3.50. DF £164.40. CSF £96.84. Tricast £1,078.66.

3.50 (1m 4f 60yd) 1, **High Tatra** (G Duffield, 3-1 fav); 2, Kattegat (13-2); 3, Romero (11-2). 8 ran. 5l, 1½l. S Woods. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £1.50, £1.80. DF £12.30. CSF £21.95. Tricast £85.15.

4.25 (1m) 1, **Tonic** (D Holland, 5-1); 2, Nissus (15-8 fav); 3, Gentleman Venture (20-1). 18 ran. 3l, 1½l. M Johnston. Tote £7.10; £1.90, £1.60, £3.20. DF £9.10. CSF £13.53.

5.00 (5f) 1, **Whizz Kid** (Darren Williams, 33-1); 2, Ivory's Grab Hire (9-1); 3, Sound The Trumpet (11-1); 4, Kalar (16-1). Johayro 7-2 fav. 16 ran. NR: Penniless. ¾l, 2½l. J Bradley. Tote £39.80; £5.40, £2.80, £3.40, £2.10. DF: £218.80. CSF £269.08. Tricast £3,318.55.

Placepot: £249.80. Quadpot: £85.80.

Cheltenham

Going: good

1.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Star of Dungannon** (A P McCoy, 9-4 fav); 2, Samakaan (5-1); 3, Lawahik (12-1). 17 ran. 5l, 9l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £1.80, £3.60. DF £8.10. CSF £11.31.

2.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **Far Dawn** (C Maude, 20-1); 2, Castle Owen (8-1); 3, Titty (10-1). Another Night (4th) 11-2 fav. 15 ran. NR: Equity's Darling, Flying Gunner. 2l, 5l. Mrs A Perrett. Tote: £24.20; £7.50, £2.10, £4.00. DF £85.90. CSF: £143.39. Tricast £1,561.10.

2.55 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Flagship Therese** (J Tizzard, 9-2); 2, Alta (14-1); 3, Skipcart (14-1). Lady Cricket (4th) 5-2 fav. 11 ran. 7l, 2l. P Nicholls. Tote £4.10; £1.20, £2.70, £2.80. DF £29.40. CSF £57.60. Tricast £752.34.

3.30 (2m 1f flat) 1, **Lost The Plot** (D Gallagher, 5-2 fav); 2, Gulshan (9-2); 3, Milady Ana (6-1). 16 ran. ½l, 3½l. D Arbuthnot. Tote: £3.30; £1.80, £2.30, £3.20. DF: £6.00. CSF: £11.08.

4.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Dantes Cavalier** (R Dunwoody, 15-2); 2, Buckland Lad (100-30); 3, Sublime Fellow (5-1). 5 ran. NR: Kings Cherry. 4l, dist. D Gandolfo. Tote £5.00; £1.90, £1.70. DF £4.80. CSF £27.89.

4.35 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Inn At The Top** (R Supple, 7-1); 2, Village King (11-8 fav); 3, Son of Anshan (5-1). 6 ran. NR: Bouchasson. 7l, 4l. J Turner. Tote £9.90; £2.90, £1.50. DF £7.70. CSF £15.83.

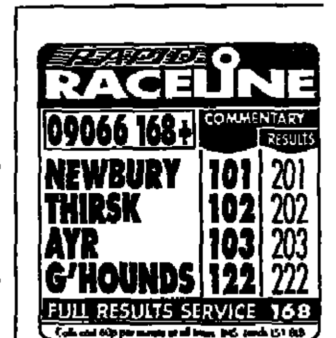
5.10 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Last Option** (Mrs F Needham, 9-4); 2, Struggles Glory (13-8 fav); 3, Rusty Bridge (25-1). 13 ran. 5l, 16l. R Tate. Tote £3.30; £1.90, £1.50, £4.90. DF: £3.10. CSF £5.74.

Placepot: £101.40. Quadpot: £12.00.

SPECIALISTS

THIRSK: Trainers: J Dunlop, 7 winners from 20 runners, 35.0%; J Glover, 5 from 17, 29.4%; J Gosden, 6 from 21, 28.6%; J Fanshawe, 5 from 24, 20.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 6 from 37, 16.2%.

Jockeys: S Whitworth, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; J Weaver, 17 from 81, 21.0%; K Darley, 20 from 101, 19.8%; A McGlone, 4 from 21, 19.0%; F Lynch, 6 from 35, 17.1%.



CRICKET

Cool Lewis outfoxes tired Essex challenge

By Jack Bailey

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Leicestershire

CENTURIES from Paul Nixon and Chris Lewis, who featured in a partnership of 228 for the sixth Leicestershire wicket, put Essex firmly in their place on a windswept day at Chelmsford yesterday. Through these two, and James Whitaker, the running fox increased the distance between himself and his Essex pursuers after two days of this PPP Healthcare county championship match in which neither had established a clear advantage.

Apart from a spell when Mark Ilott and Ashley Cowan threatened with the second new ball, Nixon and Lewis were in full command. Nixon is the essence of the brisk, watchful, imperturbable sort of left-hander to bolster England's middle order while keeping wicket with the best of them. Lewis — everyone knows what a talented, if eccentric, all-rounder he can be — added more than a touch of steely determination in a batting display that revealed all the class of a man who sees the ball earlier than most and plays it late.

Nixon, not out overnight, batted for nearly 5hr 15min, having entered the fray with Leicestershire precariously placed at 86 for four. Even against an attack as lacking in depth as that of Essex, this was a rare achievement and it brought him the eleventh century of his career and the second in successive championship innings, the last having been against Surrey at the Oval seven months earlier.

It came as something of a shock to discover that Lewis's eighth championship century, posted in 4hr 20min, was his first since he scored one for Nottinghamshire in 1994. Many trials and tribulations have beset him since, but to watch him bat yesterday was to see a man apparently at ease with himself and keen to make the most of his skills.

Lewis had time to spare against the Essex seamers, neat footwork to combat the spinners and showed the full face of the bat to the ball. He could not resist the odd touch of unnecessary flamboyance, but, for the most part, it was from worthy strokes that he punctured the field with 17 fours, to which were added a couple of sure, safe sixes.

The part played by Whitaker in the establishing of Leicestershire's first-innings lead should not be overlooked. He stayed firm both on Wednesday evening, when the outlook was grim, and yesterday. He showed both that age had not worn him down and that the knee injury that kept him out of action all last season is not inhibiting his strokeplay.

By the time he left, to a bat-pad catch at short leg, Leicestershire were on the road to recovery through Nixon. Any chance Essex had of turning the tide disappeared when Nixon, on 89, gave an unaccepted stumping chance and Lewis, on 85, smashed the ball back at Peter Such for a technical caught and bowled, which so damaged the off spinner's right hand that he retired for the rest of the day.

Irani used his captain's prerogative to polish off a side by now in search of quick runs before having a fling at Essex. But Ilott looked the best of the Essex attack, despite the impression that he was lacking a yard or two of pace.

Leicestershire's day it was, almost completed with a wicket, but Paul Prichard was dropped at second slip off the fifth ball of the only over possible before bad light took over.

Symonds leads Kent recovery

By Ivo Tennant

LORD'S (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Kent

IT IS no small feat to hit the ball as hard on a soft pitch in England in mid-April as Andrew Symonds did yesterday. His innings of 69 was resonant of sunnier days in Australia or of his batting in the limited-overs game when he was last seen here, with Gloucestershire. His partnership of 105 with Robert Key was the centrepiece of Kent's innings of 286, which gave them a narrow lead over Middlesex.

Key had a poor tour during the winter with England A, managing just 52 runs in five innings, but his ability is not in question, not in Kent, at any rate. He and Symonds came together when their side were 59 for three and, if not quite the antithesis of each other, they complemented one another in a long partnership.

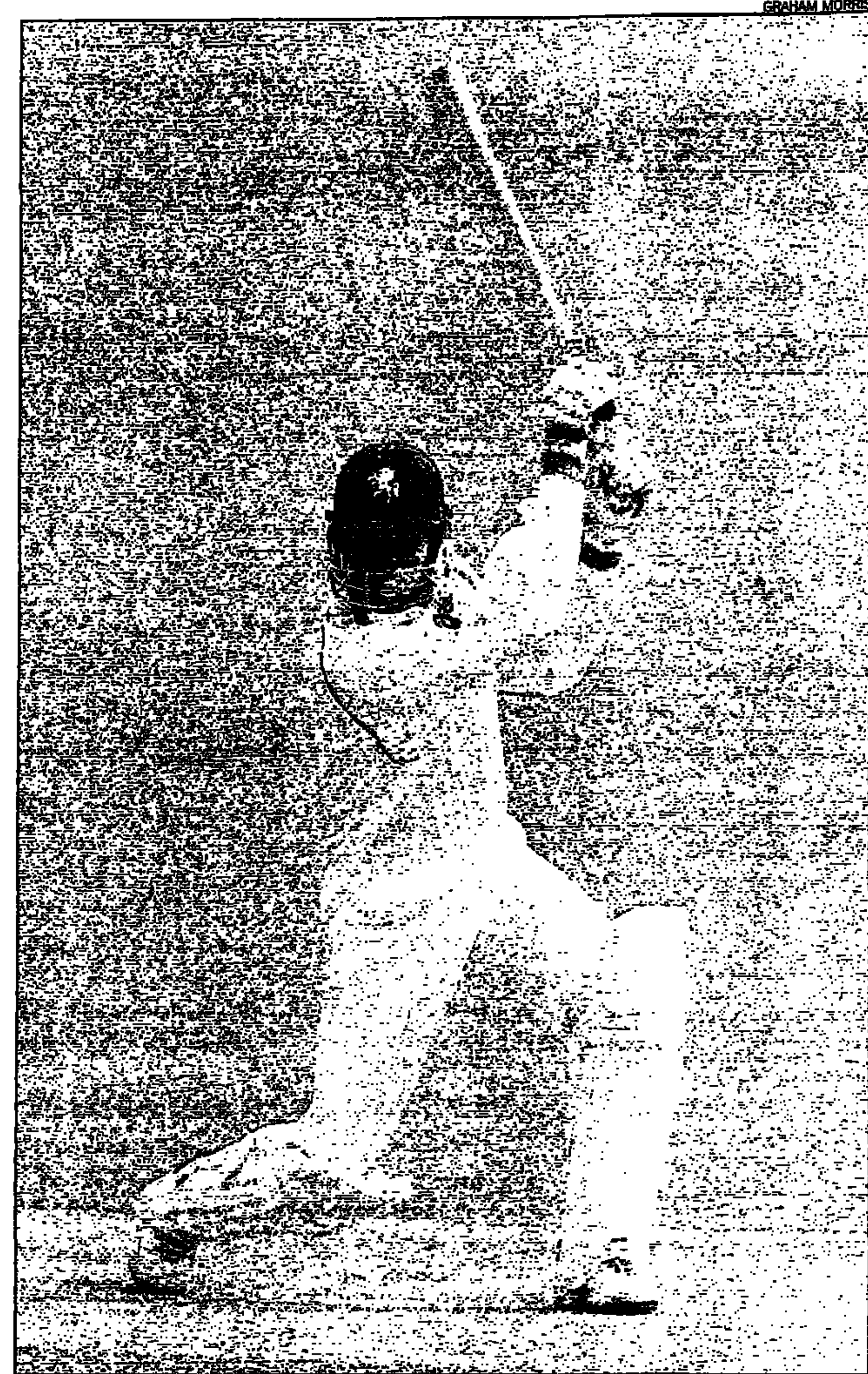
When Key was taken at short leg off Tufnell, a tame dismissal after such a diligent innings, he had made 86, with nine fours. Symonds, by contrast, punched the ball away through a strength emanating from his powerful forearms and a knowledge of early-season English conditions gleaned from his two years with Gloucestershire.

Kent specifically wanted an overseas player who would not be absent during the World Cup. Once Symonds was not required by Australia, he became their man and, in a pre-season match against Essex, showed exactly what he is capable of when he struck 123 off 131 balls. He will pepper a few boundaries this season, for sure.

Symonds had made 69 off 89 balls with ten fours and a six when he drove a little too early at one outside off stump from Hewitt and was caught at backward point. Of the rest of Kent's batting, only Marsh proved effective. Diplomatically allowed to come in ahead of Fleming, his successor as captain, he struck six fours in a robust innings of 43.

As for the Middlesex attack, Hewitt finished with five wickets, including those of Ward and Wells in his first spell, and Walker with a shortish ball outside off stump that a taller man would have cut into the ground rather than straight to gully. Tufnell, who would be delighted to regain his England place in this, his benefit year, dismissed two of the main contributors in a steady spell. He will be all the fresher, he feels, after a winter away from the game.

So Kent gained a 32-run lead. In the 12 overs that Middlesex had in the evening, they lost Kettleborough, stumped by Marsh as he attempted to go down the pitch to Patel. Roseberry did not open the innings on account of having a badly bruised right thumb. To come up with a positive result from here will be quite an achievement.


GRAHAM MORRIS

Symonds plays an attacking stroke during his innings of 69 for Kent at Lord's yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

MIDDLESEX: First innings 254 (D C Nash 62 not out, J L Langer 55, J B Thompson 4 for 61)

Second Innings

R A Kettleborough st Marsh b Patel ... 8
J L Langer not out ... 14
J P Hewitt not out ... 4
Extras (lb 1, nb 2) ... 3
Total (1 wkt) ... 29

FALL OF WICKET: 1-24.

BOWLING: Headley 2-1-6-0; Thompson 6-3-9-0; Patel 4-1-13-1.

KENT: First Innings

E T Smith lbw b Cook ... 3
R W T Key c Kettleborough b Tufnell ... 86
T R Ward c Johnson b Hewitt ... 1
A P Wells c Nash b Hewitt ... 9
A Symonds c Ramprakash b Hewitt ... 69
M J Walker c Langer b Hewitt ... 1
†S A Marsh c Weekes b Tufnell ... 43
*M V Fleming c Nash b Weekes ... 18
D W Headley c Ramprakash b Cook ... 12
M M Patel c Shah b Hewitt ... 18
J B Thompson not out ... 0
Extras (b 4, lb 8, w 10, nb 4) ... 26
Total ... 286

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-27, 3-59, 4-164, 5-170, 6-220, 7-255, 8-255, 9-284.

BOWLING: Cook 26-6-83-2; Johnson 18-5-52-0; Hewitt 25.1-10-50-5; Shah 3-0-12-0; Tufnell 26-8-45-2; Weekes 11-2-32-1

Bonus points: Middlesex 6 Kent 6.

Umpires: J H Harris and A Clarkson.

Durham benefit as Morris hits out

By Michael Austin

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Durham, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are one run ahead of Worcestershire

AS A benefit season launch, John Morris could scarcely have wished for more, except, perhaps, a hundred in the last summer of his six-year contract. Instead, he scored 55 from 82 balls, having made a brash statement by initially pulling Jason de la Pena for six.

With deep irony, Durham are controlling this game in a fashion with few precedents in their seven-year history, yet only one day remains because of bad weather. Their best hope is to bag another three batting points, a draw and 12 in all to begin the quest for top league status next summer, when the leading-nine cut-off is made.

Lewis, recovering from his troubled batting times last summer, joined Morris in making a half-century. The pair added 91 from 20 overs before Worcestershire opted for the more seasoned combination of Lampitt and Illingworth.

Belatedly, Lampitt was enlisted to deliver the 33rd over after Durham had raced to 130 for two, Lewis having gone leg-before to a full-length ball from de la Pena. Morris, bogged down by Illingworth's tormenting line, lurched forward and was stumped, leaving Boon and Collingwood to squeeze Durham ahead.

Almost symbolically, after Durham's past struggles, it became a grinding process, contrasting with the earlier freedom of Lewis, Morris and Daley, who struck five fours.

Morris enjoyed his joust with Liptrot, 19, a fast-medium bowler from Wigan making his county championship debut, and Daley, similarly, found de la Pena to his taste when play eventually began at 2.40pm.

At 35, Morris remains a batting enigma yet, with 47 first-class centuries, he is less than 400 runs short of 20,000 in his career. Flirtation with danger is part of his batting charm — hence his dismissal just as Durham could have anticipated a bigger lead, given better weather.

Butcher maintains Surrey's control

By Geoffrey Dean

THE OVAL (third day of four): Surrey, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 285 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

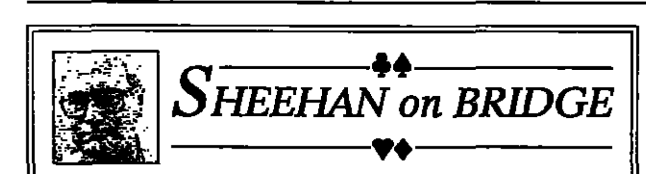
SURREY served notice yesterday that their championship challenge is going to be as serious this year as it was last. To bowl Gloucestershire out for 213 on a pitch as good as this one was a commendable effort, even if some of the visitors got out to strokes best described as early-season ones.

Mark Butcher, by contrast, has looked like a player in the middle of a purple patch, rather than someone making his first appearance since the Sydney Test. His 98 not out off 139 balls was a sparkling adornment to another cold, grey afternoon. Sadly, hardly any spectators were present to witness such an accomplished innings.

Those hardy souls who did make it were also rewarded with a fine exhibition by Salisbury, whose return of five for 44 was instrumental in Gloucestershire's cheap dismissal. He spun several deliveries quite sharply, posed a continual threat with his googly, which was seldom picked, and conceded only five fours in 17 overs. The leg break with which he removed Windows was a peach.

At one point it seemed unlikely that Gloucestershire would save the follow-on, having slipping to 160 for eight which left them 33 short. But Harvey, forced down the order because of a sore back, thumped 30 in the space of 20 balls after taking 18 to get off the mark. He took 17 off one over from Ben Hollioake, whose sore shins cannot have helped him. Bicknell was admirable, and Tudor fast but fractionally too wide of off stump.

Butcher, as he did in the first innings, scored the bulk of his 17 boundaries on the off side. As many as eight came off Lewis, who was wayward with the new ball. Wickets fell regularly around Butcher, but he watched these comings and goings with his customary stoicism, never failing to punish anything loose. Smith swung the ball to take four good wickets, but like the others, he never came close to removing Butcher.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 52 – Opening Leads

Last week I gave some guidance about which suit to choose when you needed to find an opening lead. You now have to decide which card to lead from that suit. This decision will sometimes be the same whether you are leading against a suit contract or no-trumps, but sometimes it will be a different card.

A lead from a suit headed by one honour (not the ace)
Against a suit contract or no-trumps, lead your fourth highest (see Lesson 17), the four, from the following holdings:

(A) K 9 7 4 3 (B) Q 9 5 4 (C) J 6 4

From (C), a three-card suit, you should choose your lowest card (against no-trumps you would not normally choose to lead from a three-card suit unless partner had bid it).

A lead from a suit headed by the ace
You would also lead fourth highest against a no-trump contract, but it is inadvisable to lead low from an ace against a suit contract – if declarer or dummy has a singleton you may never make your ace. Indeed, unless you have a strong reason for choosing this suit it may be better to choose another suit altogether.

A lead from a suit without an honour
Here, against both a suit contract and no-trumps, the common practice is to lead your second highest card. So, lead the seven from the following holdings:

9 7 4 3 8 7 5 3 2 9 7 5

On the next round you play your original fourth-highest (here the three) if you started with a four-card or longer suit. If you started with a three-card suit you play your highest card next. This is known as MUD (Middle Up Down).

If you started with a doubleton only, then you would lead your top card on the first round.

A lead from a suit with two or more honours
If you have three honours in a suit you should always lead one of them (against a suit or no-trumps): top of touching honours.

(D) K Q J 6 5 (E) K Q 10 6 5 (F) K J 10 6 5

From (D) and (E) lead the king. From (F) where the honour sequence is *broken*, lead the top of the touching honours, here the jack.

With two non-touching honours, always lead your fourth highest. With two touching honours against a suit contract, lead the higher honour, but against a no-trump contract lead your fourth highest.

It is important that you and your partner follow these guidelines because much of the subsequent defence will be based on the information given by the opening lead.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NEODAMODE
a. A Spartan serf
b. A verse form
c. A medieval miniskirt

PEAI
a. A type of peacock
b. A Lydian hieroglyph
c. A witch doctor

PARCENARY
a. A mercenary under contract
b. Inclined to pity
c. Joint heirship

PIÀBA
a. A rope bridge
b. A sandal
c. An exotic minnow

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, chess correspondent

Karpov's complaint

Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion, once dominated the chess scene. Indeed, he is still the official Fide (world chess federation) world champion. However, over the past few years he has been unable to replicate the form that brought him many tournament victories in the past. At Dos Hermanas Karpov is struggling, with just one win, one loss and the rest of his games drawn. Today I give his loss against Miguel Illescas, the Spanish grandmaster.

White: Miguel Illescas
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Dos Hermanas 1999
Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Bf5
5	Ng3	Bg6
6	h4	h6
7	Nf3	Nf6
8	Ne5	Bh7
9	Bd3	Bxd3
10	Qxd3	e6
11	Bd2	Nbd7
12	f4	Bd6
13	0-0-0	0-0
14	Kb1	Qc7
15	Ne2	Rad8
16	Qf3	h5
17	g4	Bxe5
18	fxe5	Nxg4
19	Nf4	Ndxe5
20	dxe5	Qxe5
21	Bc1	Qf5
22	Rxd8	Rxd8
23	Rd1	Rxd1
24	Qxd1	e5
25	Qd8+	Kh7
26	Nd3	e4
27	Nf4	Ne5
28	Qe7	b5
29	Qxa7	Nf3
30	Qe7	c5
31	Ng2	f6
32	Ne3	Qe5
33	Qd7	Nxh4
34	Qxb5	Nf5
35	Nxf5	Qxf5
36	b4	h4
37	Qxc5	Qf3
38	b5	h3
39	b6	e3
40	Qb4	h2
41	Qh4+	Kg8
42	Qxh2	e2
43	Qh4	Qc6
44	Qb4	e1Q
45	Qxe1	Qxb6+
46	Bb2	g5
47	Qg3	Kh7
48	a4	Kg6
49	Qb3	Qg1+
50	Ka2	Qc5
51	Qg8+	Kf5
52	Qh7+	Kf4
53	Qh2+	Kf5
54	Qh7+	Kf4
55	Qd3	Qc6
56	Qd4+	Kf5
57	Qd3+	Kg4
58	Kb3	Qb6+
59	Qb5	Qe3+
60	Bc3	f5
61	a5	f4
62	Qb6	Qe4
63	a6	f3
64	Qd4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Seeman — Veingold, Tallinn 1999.

Black may have thought that he had the white initiative under control here. If so White's next move would have come as a rude shock. What did he play?

Solution on page 50

CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE ALL-ROUNDER'S CENTURY EARNS PLACE IN COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

Early claim to fame for Brown

By Pat Gibson

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire have scored 300 for nine wickets against Northamptonshire

DOUGIE BROWN, who cannot play for his native Scotland in the World Cup this summer because he has already fulfilled his ambition to play for England, left both countries to reflect on what *they will be missing yesterday* by scoring the first century of his career and the first in the PPP Healthcare county championship this season.

It was also the earliest century in the history of the championship, beating by two days the hundred that Neil Smith, his new Warwickshire captain, *made* against Durham at Edgbaston last year.

Any disappointment Smith may have felt about losing such a tenuous claim to fame was tempered by the way that Brown shored up a suspect batting order and more than justified his decision to bat first on a seaming pitch.

When Brown went in on Wednesday, the Warwickshire score was looking decidedly anaemic at 73 for three, with *Piper retired hurt with a broken* finger. When the last of the showers ended another wintry day he was still there on 126, having shared stands of 65 with Hemp, 61 with Welch and 50 with the returning Piper.

It was a significant milestone for Brown, 29, a raw-*boned son of Stirling who once* played in goal for Scotland Under-18 at Hampden Park before deciding to pursue a cricket career with Warwickshire, for whom he made his debut in 1992, and England.

He knew that the writing was on the wall as far as his World Cup hopes were concerned when *he was dropped* from the England squad for the one-day internationals in Australia earlier this year after he had been picked for the three previous overseas jaunts, to Sharjah, the West Indies and Bangladesh.

Brown was determined, however, that it would not be the end of the road for him as an international cricketer. On his own admission, he has never fulfilled his potential with the bat, so he *spent* the winter at the indoor school with Neal Abberley, the Warwickshire coach, working on his technique and, as he put it, his brain, his mind-set and his whole approach to batting.

The lessons paid off the first time he put them into practice. He had augmented his lively fast-medium bowling with 17 fifties *in his previous 127 first-*class innings, but now he went further, disciplining himself against *some* demanding bowling from Taylor, Follett and Penberthy and getting closer to the ball, as he had been taught, to limit the possibilities of it *moving* a long way.

England's — and Scotland's — loss is going to be Warwick-*shire's gain. How much they* need runs from their all-rounders was emphasised yesterday when Hemp ran out of luck on 64 and was caught behind off Malcolm. Smith and Giles soon followed, one holing out to mid-off against Taylor, the other yorking himself against Swann, but Brown's efforts seemed to inspire Welch and *Piper*.

Both of them eventually fell to Malcolm, and when he also had Munton leg-before he had taken six for 116 in 29 overs. He could not dislodge Brown, however, who has batted for 305 minutes, faced 235 balls and struck 18 fours.


DAVID BURNER
Brown, who made his first first-class hundred at the 128th attempt, ducks under a short ball from Penberthy yesterday

Barnes gives Oxford batting tutorial

By Barney Spender

THE PARKS (second day of three): Oxford University, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 282 runs behind Hampshire

A WEEK after being shot out for just 81 by Worcestershire in their opening game of the season, the Oxford University batsmen again struggled to come to terms with a county bowling attack as they slipped to 115 *for seven at the end of another bitter*ly cold day.

After Derek Kenway's 56 not out took Hampshire through to their lunchtime declaration, the visiting bowlers took 16 overs to get their line right. But once Nick Pirihi shouldered arms to Simon Renshaw in the sixteenth over, the Oxford wickets fell regularly. Dave Eadie held firm for 27 overs while making 15 and Byron Byrne and Jamie Fulton both threatened to build an innings before *succumbing to Shaun Udal and Alex* Morris respectively.

In the end, though, it was left to Jezz Barnes, the Oxford wicketkeeper, to play an innings of any sustained substance. Coming to the crease with the Oxford innings in some considerable disarray at 61 for five, he played with refreshing authority to take the Dark Blues past the 100 mark. With some crisp driving Barnes, who is soon to be ordained into the Anglican Church, twice struck Udal to the cover boundary and showed solid defence during his 90 minutes at the crease.

Oxford's lack of batting solidity is sure to be a concern as they prepare *for the Varsity match, but it is under*standable, to a degree, given that James Molins, Douglas Lackhart *and Mark Wagh, their accomplished* top three of last year, have all moved on to new pastures.

One recent arrival, who is expected partly to fill that void, is Jamie Louw, who was in the same Natal University side as Shaun Pollock, the South Africa all-rounder, in the 1992-93 season. But how he must long for the hard South African pitches that he grew up on. An opener by inclination, his previous three innings for the Dark Blues had ended scoreless, *leg-before each time*.

Dropped down the order on this occasion, he at least had the relief of getting his first runs in England and a fierce pulled four off Morris suggested that he is capable of some substantial innings. But this was not to be his day as Morris hurried one through him — you guessed it, leg-before once again.

McGrath to consider the county scene

GLENN McGRATH, the Australia fast bowler, could be playing county cricket in England next year. The 29-year-old, at present in the West Indies with the Australia one-day touring party, declined to discuss details of several offers, other than to confirm that they were being finalised.

McGrath expects to play Test cricket for another five years, giving *him enough time to supersede Dennis* Lillee's record tally for an Australian of 355 Test wickets. However, Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, has expressed fears that, if McGrath plays all the year round, it could have an adverse effect on his international form.

In Grenada, Darren Lehmann, who was discarded by the Australia Test side, hit a superb unbeaten 110to pave the way for a convincing 46-run win by Australia's one-day team over West Indies. The victory *levelled the scores in the seven*-match series at 1-1.

Australia scored 288 for four from their allotted 50 overs, a record for one-day matches between the two sides, before the hosts stuttered to 242 all out. Lehmann shared a record partnership of 172 for the fifth wicket with Michael Bevan, who finished on 72 not out.

New leader starts reign with century

By Philip August

FENNER'S (first day of three; Somerset won toss): Cambridge University, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 325 runs behind Somerset

JAMIE COX'S first job as the new Somerset captain was to win the toss on a sunny but chill morning and he *happily elected to bat on a firm yet* easy-paced pitch, going in first with Peter Bowler, his predecessor.

Both had a close look at the University attack, the prolific Tasmanian taking seven overs to get off the mark, but he quickly discarded his helmet as the bowling was far from hostile. There was a certain inevitability about a large opening partnership, although Bowler was dropped in the gully from a fierce slash at a long hop when he was only six.

The *University fielding was far* from what could have been expected from a side coached by Derek Randall, although Malcolm Burks, perhaps the tallest first-class wicketkeeper, was an exception, despite the bowling becoming untidy towards the end.

Cox reached his 50 just before lunch while Greg Loveridge, the New Zealand leg spinner, was bowling his best spell in a 29-over stint which cost him 101 runs. The pick of the Cambridge attack was a freshman, Chris Sayers, a medium pacer from Millfield. Twice he got the ball to jump from a good length.

Cox, like all Australians, runs well and he timed the ball sweetly either side of the wicket. This was a gentle introduction to English cricket for him and he moved untroubled to his *century in 181 balls. His was the only* wicket to fall, to a steepling catch at long-off.

Jason Kerr, confined to second XI cricket as a batsman last season due to a shoulder injury which prevented him bowling, made a sound 30 and now he is bowling again could fulfil his early promise. Bowler has always loved batting and his 140 from 304 balls was a sound professional performance.

The declaration gave the Universi*ty an unpleasant half hour in fading* light. Paul Jarvis, formerly of Yorkshire and more recently Sussex, accounted for Ben Collins, who aimed an ambitious pull at his second ball and was caught at mid-off. Jarvis's partner, Matt Bulbeck, swung the ball late and has gathered pace since last year. The Somerset seam attack should be a potent force this season but it is doubtful whether Cox and Bowler will again find conditions so much in their favour.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

PPP Healthcare county championship

Durham v Worcestershire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Durham, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are one run ahead of Worcestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 152 (D A Leatherdale 85, S J E Brown 5 for 25)

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis lbw b De la Pena	52
M A Gough lbw b Shenyar	0
J E Morris st Rhodes b Illingworth	55
J A Daley c Rhodes b Lampitt	24
*D C Boon not out	8
P D Collingwood not out	7
Extras (lb 5, nb 2)	7
Total (4 wkts)	153

†M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown and S J Harmison to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-96, 3-138, 4-138

BOWLING: Shenyar 10-2-35-1, De la Pena 12-5-43-1, Leatherdale 1-0-2-0, Liptrot 5-0-32-0, Illingworth 12-3-29-1, Lampitt 8-5-7-1

Bonus points: Durham 4 Worcs 1

Umpires: J C Balderstone and G I Burgess.

Essex v Leicestershire

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Leicestershire

ESSEX: First Innings 252 (P J Prichard 91)

Second Innings

P J Prichard not out	2
D D J Robinson not out	0
Total (no wkt)	2

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 1-0-2-0

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

D L Maddy b Ilott	46
I J Sutcliffe c Rollins b Ilott	11
A Habib c Rollins b Irani	3
B F Smith b Cowan	14
*J J Whitaker c Peters b Cowan	44
†P A Nixon lbw b Ilott	121
C C Lewis c Rollins b Irani	139
J M Dakin c Prichard b Grayson	8
M S Kasprowicz c sub b Irani	9
J Ormond c Prichard b Irani	6
M T Brimson not out	1
Extras (b 8, lb 8, nb 6)	22
Total	424

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-63, 3-63, 4-86, 5-153, 6-381, 7-408, 8-408, 9-422

BOWLING: Ilott 33-9-115-3, Cowan 27-6-83-2, Irani 23.1-5-59-4, Such 21.2-3-70-0, Grayson 36-10-56-1, Law 5.4-0-25-0

Bonus points: Essex 6 Leicester 8

Umpires: R Julian and R Palmer

Surrey v Gloucestershire

THE OVAL (third day of four): Surrey, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 286 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

SURREY: First Innings 342 (I J Ward 78, M A Butcher 68, A M Smith 4 for 93)

Second Innings

*M A Butcher not out	98
I J Ward c Barnett b Smith	0
J D Ratcliffe c Alleyne b Lewis	6
N Shahid c Ball b Smith	23
A D Brown c Russell b Smith	4
B C Hollioake lbw b Smith	10
†J N Batty not out	9
Extras (b 5, lb 1)	6
Total (5 wkts)	156

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-32, 3-111, 4-119, 5-133.

BOWLING: Smith 13-3-23-4, Lewis 11-2-43-1; Alleyne 10-2-33-0; Ball 13-1-47-0, Snape 1-0-4-0.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

K J Barnett c Batty b Bicknell	17
T H C Hancock b G P Butcher	53
D R Hewson b Salisbury	6
*M W Alleyne lbw b Bicknell	10
M G N Windows c Batty b Salisbury	12
J N Snape lbw b Salisbury	21
†R C Russell not out	36
M C J Ball b Salisbury	0
J Lewis c Brown b Bicknell	6
I J Harvey c Shahid b Hollioake	30
A M Smith c M A Butcher b Salisbury	0
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 12, nb 4)	22
Total	213

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-39, 3-62, 4-110, 5-118, 6-147, 7-147, 8-160, 9-212

BOWLING: Bicknell 22-7-56-3; Tudor 17-2-46-0, Salisbury 17.2-6-44-5, G P Butcher 9-4-19-1; Hollioake 7-1-42-1.

Bonus points: Surrey 6 Gloucs 5

Umpires: B Dudleston and J F Steele

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire have scored 300 for nine wickets against Northamptonshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

M A Wagh lbw b Malcolm	0
M J Powell c Loye b Taylor	20
D L Hemp c Ripley b Malcolm	64
T L Penney c Ripley b Malcolm	6
†K J Piper b Malcolm	34
D R Brown not out	126
*N M K Smith c Sales b Taylor	8
A F Giles b Swann	8
G Welch c Hayden b Malcolm	23
T A Munton lbw b Malcolm	1
E S H Giddins not out	4
Extras (lb 6)	6
Total (9 wkts)	300

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-38, 3-59, 4-138, 5-159, 6-182, 7-243, 8-293, 9-295

BOWLING: Malcolm 29-3-116-6, Taylor 31-11-57-2, Swann 18-7-43-1; Follett 15-2-46-0; Penberthy 14-7-32-0

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: *M L Hayden, R J Bailey, M B Loye, R J Warren, D J G Sales, A L Penberthy, G P Swann, †D Ripley, J P Taylor, D Follett, D E Malcolm.

Bonus points: Warks 3 Northants 4

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A G T Whitehead.

NO PLAY: Old Trafford (third day of four) Sussex 285-5 (M T E Peirce 77, R R Montgomerie 62) v Lancashire

University matches

Cambridge University v Somerset

FENNER'S (first day of three, Somerset won toss): Cambridge University, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 325 runs behind Somerset

SOMERSET: First Innings

*J Cox c Sayers b Loveridge	139
P D Bowler not out	140
J I D Kerr not out	30
Extras (b 7, lb 10, w 4, nb 8)	29
Total (1 wkt dec)	338

P C L Holloway, M E Trescothick, M Burns, †R J Turner, G D Rose, M Bulbeck, A R K Pierson and P W Jarvis did not bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-278

BOWLING: Pimlott 16-3-43-0, Halsall 7-2-19-0, Loveridge 29-4-101-1; Sayers 14-2-47-0; Walker 23-2-78-0; Danson 7-0-33-0

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings

B J Collins c Rose b Jarvis	0
I Mohammed not out	9
K D M Walker not out	4
Total (1 wkt)	13

A R Danson, *O J Hughes, J P Pyemont, G R Loveridge, R G Halsall, †M J Birks, C R Pimlott and C A Sayers to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-0

BOWLING: Jarvis 3-3-0-1, Bulbeck 3-0-13-0

Umpires: A A Jones and N G Cowley


Malcolm: six wickets

Oxford University v Hampshire

THE PARKS (second day of three): Oxford University, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 282 runs behind Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White lbw b Mather	5
J P Stephenson c Louw b Hicks	136
W S Kendall lbw b Mather	24
*R A Smith retired hurt	45
†A N Aymes retired hurt	69
S Lugsden b Khan	16
D A Kenway not out	56
A D Mascarenhas b Hicks	5
S D Udal not out	28
Extras (lb 11, nb 2)	13
Total (5 wkts dec)	397

A C Morris and S J Renshaw did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-49, 3-279, 4-330, 5-335

BOWLING: Kino 30-10-76-0, Mather 30-11-64-2, Khan 23-4-93-1, Hicks 36-4-105-2, Byrne 16-4-48-0

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

N G Pirihi lbw b Renshaw	7
D J Eadie lbw b Udal	15
*J A Claughton lbw b Mascarenhas	8
B W Byrne lbw b Udal	13
J A G Fulton b Morris	10
J H Louw lbw b Morris	5
†J P B Barnes not out	25
T C Hicks not out	14
D Kino c White b Stephenson	5
Extras (lb 13)	13
Total (7 wkts)	115

S H Khan and D P Mather to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-36, 3-36, 4-56, 5-61, 6-70, 7-98

BOWLING: Lugsden 8-4-11-0, Morris 13-4-18-2, Renshaw 6-3-6-1, Mascarenhas 8-5-6-1, Udal 17-7-35-2, White 1-0-7-0, Stephenson 7-3-19-1

Umpires: T E Jesty and J W Lloyds

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

First division

Barnsley v Sunderland (7.45)

Second division

Colchester v Notts County (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Billericay v Enfield (7.45)

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrick's Ath v Cork (7.35), Waterford v Dundalk (7.45)

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Shoreham v Burgess Hill

CRICKET

PPP Healthcare county championship

11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

11.0, final day of four, 104 overs minimum

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Worcestershire

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Leicestershire

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Sussex

LORD'S: Middlesex v Kent

THE OVAL: Surrey v Gloucestershire

University matches

11.30, second day of three

FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Somerset

11.0, final day of three

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Hampshire (11.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Halifax v Wigan (7.30)

Leeds v Hull (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE Premier division: Pontypridd v Ebbw Vale (7.15).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser play-off championship: Quarter-final, third leg: Sheffield Sharks v Greater London Leopards (at Ponds Forge ISC, 7.45).

AYR

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Father Krismas
2.30 Ackzo
3.00 To-Day To-Day
3.30 Weaver George
4.00 Castle Clear
4.30 Howayman
5.00 Merry Masquerade

Carl Evans: 4.30 Ensign Ewart.

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 WESTERN HOUSE NOVICES HURDLE (£4,497: 2m) (6 runners)

1 -021 SAN FRANCISCO 35 (T,CD,S) A Whillans 5-11-5 S Taylor 87
2 F0 OKEEDOKEE 1129F D Nicholson 9-11-0 R Johnson –
3 0 THE GREY DYER 11 L Lungo 5-11-0 W Dowling (5) –
4 112 ALBRIGHTON 50 (D,F) F Murphy 4-10-13 A Maguire 97
5 3221 FATHER KRISMAS 13 (G) P Nicholls 4-10-8 J Tizzard [illegible]
6 FISHERMAN'S COVE 245F L Lungo 4-10-8 R Supple –

11-8 Father Krismas, 7-4 Albrighton, 13-2 San Francisco, 12-1 Okeedokee, 14-1 Fisherman's Cove, 25-1 The Grey Dyer.

2.30 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NH NOVICES HURDLE (£5,121: 2m 4f) (8)

1 1614 BUCK'S PALACE 44 (G,S) P Nicholls 6-11-10 J Tizzard 113
2 2211 BORA BORA 11 (D,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5 C Llewellyn 94
3 2211 ACKZO 11 (D,S) F Murphy 6-11-0 A Maguire [illegible]
4 -414 CONCHOBOR 41 (G,S) K Bailey 7-11-0 N Williamson 91
5 F0 HALLRULE 27 J Dixver 5-11-0 A Dobbin 40
6 5111 PLENTY COURAGE 18 (C,F,S) F Storey 5-11-0 B Storey 69
7 4323 RED HOT INDIAN 35 (BF,S) L Lungo 6-11-0 R Supple 81
8 40 CRAIGIE BELLE 21 D Robertson 7-10-9 Mr C R Weaver (7) –

2-1 Ackzo, 3-1 Buck's Palace, 7-2 Bora Bora, 4-1 Conchobor, 8-1 Plenty Courage, 16-1 Red Hot Indian, 66-1 Hallrule, Craigie Belle

3.00 MACLAYS BREWERY AND NEWLANDS ESTATE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£7,328: 2m 6f) (11)

1 4223 GENTLE RIVAGE 44 (S) N T-Davies 5-11-10 C Llewellyn 108
2 1513 SCOTMAIL LAD 27 (C,D,S) G M Moore 5-11-10 N Hannity (5) 114
3 1311 SIR BOB 36 (S) W McKeown 7-11-6 C McCormack (3) 111
4 2155 FINEWOOD 53 (BF,S) J Jefferson 5-11-6 L Wyer 104
5 313 MITHAK 53 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-5 R Johnson 81
6 4131 CHARLIE BANKER 18 (F,S) K Burke 7-11-3 N Williamson 101
7 3410 WESTERTON 10 (S) J FitzGerald 6-10-13 P Niven 77
8 4611 TO-DAY TO-DAY 27 (S) L Lungo 6-10-8 Mr R Gibson (5) 102
9 2301 OH SO COSY 21 (D,G) C Parker 6-10-5 B Storey 98
10 2526 MISTY CLASS 20 (BF,S) Mrs S Smith 7-10-4 Mr J Crowley (5) [illegible]
11 0640 SUNRISE SENSATION 55 (S) R McDonald 6-10-0 R Supple 93

4-2 Sir Bob, 6-1 Oh So Cosy, 7-1 To-Day To-Day, 8-1 Gentle Rivage, Scotmail Lad, Mithak, Charlie Banker, 10-1 others

3.30 HILLHOUSE QUARRY HANDICAP CHASE (£10,328: 2m 4f) (6)

1 -3P3 SPARKY GAYLE 55 (CD,F,G,S) C Parker 9-11-10 B Storey [illegible]
2 /53P SQUIRE SILK 76 (BF,D,G,S) P Nicholls 10-11-9 R Dunwoody 115
3 341U MADISON COUNTY 55 (B,D,S) P Hobbs 9-10-11 A P McCoy 143
4 2221 BALLAD MINSTREL 20 (B,D,G,S) J FitzGerald 7-10-6 L Wyer 136
5 6122 WEAVER GEORGE 17 (D,F,G,S) W Storey 9-10-1 A Dobbin 123
6 5225 JYMJAM JOHNNY 13 (C,S) J J O'Neill 10-10-0 L Cooper (7) 126

11-4 Sparky Gayle, 3-1 Ballad Minstrel, 7-2 Madison County, 9-2 Weaver George, 11-2 Squire Silk, 14-1 Jymjam Johnny.

4.00 ALLOWAY CHASE (£5,865: 2m) (3)

1 233P CALON LAN 104 (D,S) N Henderson 6-11-0 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
2 -F52 CASTLE CLEAR 35 (BF,D,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 Mr A Dempsey 100
3 S003 MELDRUM PARK 7 (F) F Murphy 6-10-9 A Maguire –

4-5 Castle Clear, 13-8 Calon Lan, 4-1 Meldrum Park.

4.30 ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS ILPH HUNTERS CHASE (£2,921: 3m 3f 110yd) (6)

1 -F11 HOWAYMAN 21 (B,C,G,S) Mrs K Anderson 9-12-8 Mr K Anderson [illegible]
2 -210 VARYKINOV 29 (G,S) M G Rimell 10-12-8 Mr M Rimell 91
3 4215 COOL YULE 21 (G,S) R Kyle 11-12-5 Mr K Renwick (7) 33
4 -032 ENSIGN EWART 21 (F,G) Mrs J Storey 8-12-5 Mr C Storey 91
5 443P FISCAL POLICY 8 (G,S) A Trotter 11-12-0 Mr R Trotter (7) 78
6 4-23 MINERS MELODY 4 (C,G,S) C Grant 11-12-0 Mrs S Grant (7) 79

7-4 Varykinov, 2-1 Howayman, 7-2 Ensign Ewart, 10-1 Cool Yule, 14-1 others.

5.00 CHOICE HOTELS HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,937: 2m 6f) (11)

1 1P1P KINGS MEASURE 31 (CD,G,S) J Jefferson 6-11-10 L Wyer 121
2 5325 BURNT IMP 17 (C,D,F,G,S) G M Moore 9-11-5 J Callaghan –
3 11/U MY CHEEKY MAN 27 (G,S) D Nicholson 8-10-13 R Johnson –
4 -310 MERRY MASQUERADE 8 (S) Mrs Reveley 8-10-11 P Niven [illegible]
5 U214 GLENUGIE 157 (F,G,S) G M Moore 8-10-11 N Hannity (5) 122
6 2421 LORDBERNIEBOUFFANT 34 (S) J Gifford 8-10-9 P Hide 116
7 4344 PALACEGATE KING 53 (C,S) A Whillans 10-10-6 I Jardine (7) 113
8 P310 ALLEZ WIJINS 31 (G,S) N Henderson 10-10-0 M A Fitzgerald 118
9 1022 COTTSTOWN BOY 34 (C,D,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-0 A Maguire 119
10 3103 YOUNG THRUSTER 41 (S) N T-Davies 6-10-0 C Llewellyn 117
11 6BR0 PALACE OF GOLD 18 (G,S) L Lungo 9-10-0 W Dowling (5) 123

9-2 Lordberniebouffant, 5-1 Merry Masquerade, Allez Wijins, 6-1 Kings Measure, 7-1 Cottstown Boy, Young Thruster, 10-1 Glenugie, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Nicholls, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; J Gifford, 4 from 14, 28.6%; J FitzGerald, 4 from 15, 26.7%; A Whillans, 13 from 53, 24.5%; G M Moore, 13 from 64, 20.3%

JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald, 3 winners from 13 rides, 23.1%; W Dowling, 4 from 20, 20.0%; L Wyer, 8 from 40, 20.0%; C Storey, 3 from 16, 18.8%; N Williamson, 5 from 27, 18.5%

SPORT IN BRIEF

Nelson makes defence

BOXING: Johnny Nelson will make the first defence of his World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title before his hometown supporters when he fights Bruce Scott at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, on May 15. Nelson, 32, won the title from Carl Thompson in five rounds in Derby last month, after *failed attempts against Carlos de Leon, of Puerto Rico, with* whom he drew in 1990, and James Warring, an American, who beat him on points two years later. Scott, 29, Jamaican-born but based in Hackney, moved up a division from light-heavyweight in late 1996.

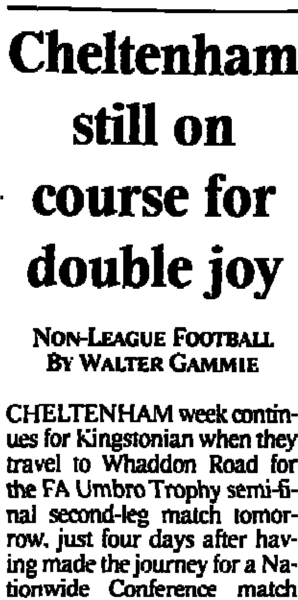
ICE HOCKEY: Great Britain completed the first step towards rejoining the world's elite with a 4-2 victory over Hungary in pool B of the world championships in Odense, Denmark, yesterday. Peter Woods's side guaranteed themselves a top-four place in the eight-nation group and with it an attempt at the play-offs for pool A qualification this year. The victory also set up a *gold-medal showdown with the host nation tomorrow*, though the Danes' goal difference may prove crucial.

BASEBALL: Darryl Strawberry, the New York Yankees stalwart, has been charged with soliciting prostitution and possession of cocaine, police in Tampa, Florida, said yesterday. He was arrested for offering an undercover policewoman $50 for sex and officers also found three-tenths of a gram of cocaine powder in his wallet. Strawberry, who hit 24 home runs last season, underwent surgery for colon cancer *in October last year*.

REAL TENNIS: Penny Lumley, of Great Britain, the women's world champion, made good use of home advantage on the Holyport court to defeat Alison Cockcroft and reach the quarter-finals of the Harvey Joseph British Open championship in convincing style. Jane Lippincott, of the United States, came from 5-2 down in the final set to defeat Brenda Sabbagg, the No 8 seed, her compatriot, and now meets Lumley in the last eight.

ROWING: Simon Dennis and Steve Williams took advantage of withdrawals to win the pairs title at the international trials at Nottingham (Mike Rosewell writes). James Cracknell and Ed Coode won their early-morning semi-final in subzero temperatures but illness forced them to pull out of the final. Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop, the world championship silver medal-winners last summer, won the women's pairs.

TENNIS: Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, served 11 aces to beat David Prinosil and reach the Japan Open quarter-finals yesterday, but is still struggling to become accustomed to the hard-court surface. Krajicek, of The Netherlands, needed more than his service to beat the German 6-4, 6-4 and said: "I didn't feel completely in control for the whole match." The Dutchman won the Japan title in 1997.



Cheltenham still on course for double joy

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

CHELTENHAM week continues for Kingstonian when they travel to Whaddon Road for the FA Umbro Trophy semi-final second-leg match tomorrow, just four days after having made the journey for a Nationwide Conference match that Cheltenham won 1-0.

That victory, coupled with Rushden and Diamonds' 2-1 defeat by Yeovil, left Cheltenham needing to win home matches against Forest Green Rovers on Tuesday and Yeovil on Thursday to secure promotion to the Nationwide League.

Having drawn 2-2 at Kingsmeadow in the first leg of the Trophy semi-final, Cheltenham, the holders after beating Southport at Wembley last May, remain on course to follow Wealdstone (1985), Colchester United (1992) and Wycombe Wanderers (1993) as winners of the double.

At the foot of the Conference, Farnborough Town must beat Doncaster Rovers at Cherrywood Road tomorrow and hope Barrow lose at Stevenage Borough to avoid relegation. Even if Farnborough go down, Dean Coney, the caretaker-manager, would like the job on a full-time basis.

"I've had ten games during which I've had to play two youth-team players and three reserve-team players," he said. "But we've been hit by injuries and suspensions and at the time of the transfer deadline weren't in a position to sign anyone. If we get players in to strengthen the team, I see no reason why we shouldn't come straight back up."

Coney knows it is possible. Farnborough did just that after relegation in the 1989-90 season and then took two seasons when sent down again in 1992-93.

Leek Town go into their match at Yeovil tomorrow under the temporary stewardship of Tony Agana, after the dismissal of Ernie Moss in the wake of a 4-1 home defeat by Hayes last Saturday.

Leek made a tentative approach to John Rudge, through Linden Davies, the former chairman and a personal friend, but Rudge was advised not to involve himself with another club while his dispute over his dismissal by Port Vale remains unresolved.

THE GREATEST?



Michael Owen's goal for England against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup is a worthy contender to rival Giggs's effort as the greatest of all time

The euphoria may take a few days to die down, but how will history judge Ryan Giggs's remarkable solo effort at Villa Park on Wednesday? **Matt Dickinson** assesses its claims to greatness

One sweet moment of genius

One always suspected that it would take a genius, penalties or the toss of a coin to separate Arsenal and Manchester United on Wednesday night and, fortunately, it fell to the genius. What was left as Ryan Giggs limped away from the scene of his brilliance was to decide whether his goal was the best of the season, decade, or, in the case of those United supporters inebriated on success, the century.

If context is everything in sport, as Alex Ferguson claimed, then he was entitled to elevate Giggs's goal among the greats. The closest comparison that the United manager could remember was John Barnes's slalom run for England against Brazil on the night an Englishman taught the beach boys how to dribble, but that was during a friendly. This FA Cup semi-final replay had been turned into a two-hour pitch battle and Giggs's strike provided a final, riotous explosion.

"It's his balance," Ferguson once said, "that gives him a real chance of being truly great," and it was that uncoachable quality that enabled him to glide through the best defence in Europe.

"He can wrong-foot anybody just by movement. Just when you think a tackler is going to get to the ball, he seems to float or ride over the challenge," Ferguson added, and Arsenal will testify to his powers of levitation. It was a goal scored as much by his swaying hips and shoulders as his thunderous left foot.

Only supporters of Arsenal should have cursed his wizardry, because a flying Giggs has become hard to find and the English game has been much the poorer for it. Some of his exuberance, the tricks and the inhibition appeared to have disappeared from his football. He had become functional rather than mesmerising.

The boy wonder appeared to have turned into a 25-year-old with cares. "He has been trying to embrace all parts of the game," Ferguson said by way of explanation, before adding: "but you can never take away the genius."

Perhaps Arsenal could and should have stopped him. A little nudge, a clip of the ankle perhaps, or an unseen tug on his shirt and the Welshman would have tumbled to the turf. But Giggs had only been on the pitch for an hour, the Arsenal defence for almost two and they could not even get close enough to trip him. Their despairing tackles betrayed a tiredness that was close to exhaustion.

Patrick Vieira, whose rare mistake had provided Giggs with the ball ten yards inside his own half, could not recover the lost ground as the winger raced off like a greyhound from the stalls.

As he hurtled towards the penalty area, Lee Dixon missed once and came back for a second go, but Giggs slipped between him and Martin Keown as if he was skipping through the daisies. Next came a thundering Tony Adams, but his lunge was too late. The ball was already rising irresistibly past a sinking David Seaman and the roof of the net bulged like a windsock in a gale.

It was a finish worthy of the most expansive celebrations and Giggs did not let us down. Normally one of the more restrained figures, he tore off his shirt to reveal his willowy torso and whirled his jersey in the air like a lasso.

"In terms of coming in an important game, that goal stands alone," his manager said, perhaps acknowledging the debate that would inevitably follow.

So does it bear comparison? Ricardo Villa's twists and turns in the 1981 FA Cup Final for Tottenham Hotspur may have lacked the whirlwind effect of Giggs's pace, but it rounded off a touching tale of despair and glory.

An Englishman who can set aside his envy for just a moment will acknowledge that Diego Maradona's second goal for Argentina in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final was at least as comparable in execution and stature to Giggs. How about Michael Owen's rapier run through the heart of the Argentina defence last summer?

There are bludgeoning strikes (Ronny Radford) and curling free kicks (Roberto Carlos) that will be used in evidence against Giggs, as will justifiable claims that Seaman should have stood up, that the Arsenal defence missed tackles and that the United winger barely touched the ball in his 60-yard dash.

So perhaps the last word should be with the vanquished. "Giggs's goal was one of the best I have ever seen," Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal left back, said, "but that does not make the defeat any easier to bear." He, at least, will not be waiting for the television replays.

GOALS THAT LIVE IN THE MEMORY

RYAN GIGGS'S winning goal on Wednesday night has been hailed by some as the greatest goal of all time. Here are ten other contenders:

Pelé (Brazil v Sweden, World Cup final, June 1958)
Having almost missed tournament because of knee injury, 17-year-old Pelé announces presence on world stage with first of his two goals in final. Controlling high ball in crowded penalty area, flicks ball over his head, swivels and volleys home.

Bobby Charlton (Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur, Charity Shield, August 1967)
According to Kenneth Wolstenholme, "good enough to win the league, the cup, the Charity Shield, the World Cup and even the Grand National". Denis Law's body swerve in own half and Brian Kidd's run down left pave way for Charlton special from 25 yards.

Carlos Alberto (Brazil v Italy, World Cup final, June 1970)
Completing Brazil's 4-1 victory, Rivelino passes up left wing to Jairzinho, whose cross is sent farther along edge of penalty area by Pele for onrushing Carlos Alberto to smash ball into far corner.

Ricardo Villa (Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City, FA Cup Final replay, May 1981)
Scorer of spectacular long-range effort against Wolves in semi-final replay, Villa shows he can dribble, too, by getting goal that clinches 3-2 win. Beats Tommy Caton, Ray Ranson and Caton again before sliding shot under Joe Corrigan.

John Barnes (England v Brazil, friendly, June 1984)
Silky Brazilians given taste of own medicine by Barnes, 20. Picking up ball on left near halfway line, goes past five opponents before sliding ball home from close range.

Diego Maradona (Argentina v England, World Cup quarter-final, June 1986)
Maradona shows why he is probably greatest dribbler. Having earlier punched in Argentina's opening goal, pulls away from the Peters, Beardsley and Reid, on halfway line and evades challenges from the Terrys, Butcher and Fenwick, before beating Peter Shilton.

Marco Van Basten (Holland v USSR, European Championship final, June 1988)
Arnold Muhren sends diagonal, hanging cross from left to far side of penalty area and Van Basten, from a tight angle, smashes volley over Dassayev and into net.

George Weah (AC Milan v Verona, Serie A, September 1996)
Liberian goes it alone in scoring remarkable goal on opening day of season for Italian champions. Collecting ball in own penalty area, Weah runs imperiously to other end of pitch before finding net.

Michael Owen (England v Argentina, World Cup second round, June 1998)
Having earlier won penalty that gives England equaliser, Owen takes pass from David Beckham and sets off at high speed towards Argentina area. The 18-year-old sidesteps Roberto Ayala and fires ball to right of Carlos Roa.

David Ginola (Tottenham Hotspur v Barnsley, FA Cup quarter-final, March 1999)
Ginola completes mazy run with only goal. Beginning ten yards inside Barnsley half, jinks inside Nicky Eaden, his marker, sways past challenges from Chris Morgan and Arjan De Zeeuw, and places ball beyond Tony Bullock, the goalkeeper.

BILL EDGAR

Puzzle of Anelka must be solved

BY MATT DICKINSON

THEY conceded as many goals in two hours as they had in the previous two months, but it is not to Arsenal's stout defence that Arsène Wenger will look this morning as he reflects on his side's defeat by Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-final replay on Wednesday. The attack is likely to dominate his thoughts and, more particularly, the conundrum that is Nicolas Anelka.

If Arsenal are to retain the more important half of their Double — the FA Carling Premiership trophy — they need to rediscover some fluency when in range of goal, but the solution to that is enmeshed in the mysterious workings of Anelka's mind. The 20-year-old, despite occasional protestations of happiness, continues to look as though he has been dragged out of the dressing-room.

His two goals for France against England in February were supposed to have cast off his introspection, but he has since been dropped by his club and his two performances against United were riddled with inconsistencies. Brilliantly alert one minute, he would then drift off into his dream world for long spells.

There is increasing concern at Highbury as to exactly how long he will remain in England, which explained the club's interest in Robbie Fowler earlier this season, a transfer that the Liverpool striker appears to have knocked on the head by signing a new five-year contract at Anfield. But Wenger has money to spend on other targets and Anelka, who would tempt £10 million from many of Europe's leading clubs, is hardly encouraging the idea that he will stay.

In the short term, Arsenal desperately need him at his brightest as they return to the league, starting with Wimbledon at home on Monday when Dennis Bergkamp may feel like relinquishing the penalty duties. The Dutchman scored his side's only goal against United with a deflected shot, but his penalty miss in the closing moments of normal time was his third failure in five spot kicks this season. He was the last to leave a morbid dressing-room at Villa Park and he will be desperate to make amends. Arsenal need Anelka to be equally enthused.

Chelsea limited by ambition

BY ROB HUGHES

ARE Chelsea, a squad built to surpass any in their history — and at a cost to match — going to blow the chance of winning the FA Carling Premiership through pragmatism?

They returned sore, weary but unbeaten from Middlesbrough on Wednesday and the Chelsea coach, Ray Wilkins, suggested that the scoreless, guileless contest at the Riverside proved their manhood.

It is the oldest cliché in the book that a talented team first has to fight for the right to play. But Chelsea had the opportunity to rise above Manchester United and Arsenal, and to impose their skills on a lesser team such as Middlesbrough. They failed. The limit of their ambition seemed to be to hang on to one point.

Gianluca Vialli has built on Ruud Gullit's commitment to science and apparently intends recruiting yet more Italians to improve the technical and tactical fluency of his team, notably on the left. But that is next season's work. Chelsea have first to believe in themselves and hold their nerve.

Vialli, for the moment, is neither offering himself to help win the league games, nor explaining why, although he has spoken on Italian television where he suggested the tide has turned Chelsea's way in the championship. This, despite Chelsea's struggle to score goals, is based on the stretching of nerve and sinew of United across three fronts and a combination of suspensions and age in Arsenal.

All the more reason why Chelsea should grasp the nettle. Their remaining six fixtures — four at home, starting with Leicester City on Sunday — are on paper easier than Arsenal's and United's, both of whom must travel to Middlesbrough and Leeds.

What would haunt Chelsea is to finish also-rans by a point or two — the points that they did not reach out for with any conviction on a chilly night on the Northeast coast. Gianfranco Zola, who missed their one gilt-edged scoring chance there, was the true face of Chelsea. Not because his shot was saved, not because his impish enthusiasm has dried up; but because very early in the game his desperation could be seen that Chelsea were playing a game foreign to him, foreign to their nature.

Not even he can draw inspiration without the ball.

TITLE RUN-IN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	31	18	10	3	69	32	64
Arsenal	32	17	12	3	43	13	63
Chelsea	32	17	12	3	47	24	63

MANCHESTER UNITED: Tomorrow: Sheffield Wednesday (h) **April 25:** Leeds (a). **May 1:** Aston Villa (h) **May 5:** Liverpool (a) **May 9:** Middlesbrough (a). **May 12:** Blackburn (a) **May 16:** Tottenham (h).

ARSENAL: April 19: Wimbledon (h). **April 24:** Middlesbrough (a) **May 2:** Derby (h). **May 5:** Tottenham (a) **May 11:** Leeds (a). **May 16:** Aston Villa (h).

CHELSEA: April 18: Leicester (h). **April 25:** Sheffield Wednesday (h). **May 1:** Everton (h) **May 5:** Leeds (h) **May 10:** Tottenham (a) **May 16:** Derby (h)

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ The Football League is set to follow rugby's example and use the ten-yard rule for offences in the Auto Windscreens Shield next season. After a successful trial in Jersey, match officials will be instructed to advance a free kick by ten yards if a player continues to show dissent, fails to retreat ten yards or delays the kick.

■ Manchester City expect Terry Cooke to complete his permanent move from Manchester United today in a deal worth £1 million. Cooke, 22, a winger, has been on loan at Maine Road for three months.

■ The Football Trust has raised the limit on ground-improvement grants for second and third division clubs to £2 million to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. Previously, second division clubs had received £1 million while third division clubs received £750,000.

■ Lawrie McMenemy, the Northern Ireland manager, has called up Damien Johnson, the Blackburn Rovers winger, and Adrian Coote, the Norwich City striker, for the international match against Canada on April 27.

■ Jonas Thern, the Sweden international, is to leave Rangers at the end of the season because of a severe knee injury. Thern, 32, who joined Rangers from AS Roma in 1997, is expected to retire from the game.

■ Dundee are planning to groundshare with Airdrie if construction work at their Dens Park home is not completed by July 31. It would mean Dundee supporters making a round trip of 160 miles to see their team in action.

■ Sunderland will play Sampdoria, the Italian Serie A club, in a testimonial match for Kevin Ball, the club captain and midfield player, at the Stadium of Light on July 31. Ball joined Sunderland from Portsmouth in 1990.

■ Almost 45,000 Millwall supporters have bought tickets for the Auto Windscreens Shield final against Wigan Athletic at Wembley on Sunday. Wigan have sold about 8,000 tickets for the match, which will have George Best as its guest of honour.

GOLF

Dougherty lowers Copt Heath record

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

A FEW hardy souls who had wrapped up well against a biting wind and the occasional hailstorm were rewarded with glimpses of an outstanding round by an outstanding young golfer in the McEvoy Trophy at Copt Heath Golf Club yesterday.

Nick Dougherty, 16, who comes from Shaw Hill in Lancashire, set a new amateur course record of 66, five under par, in the last round of the 72-hole event. All afternoon Dougherty looked quite the professional he wants to be. The question now is whether he can sustain his promise or whether his talent will shrivel as he gets older, as it has with other young golfers?

Karen Thatcher, the mother of Jamie Elson, described Dougherty as "the best we've got in England". This includes her son, who won a tournament in the United States recently. David Porter, from Stoneham, who won this event with a total of 280, four under par, and Sandeep Grewal, of Heswall, who finished second on 282. Porter and Dougherty are eligible to compete in this competition for the next two years. Not only was the halfway cut the lowest since 1987 but Porter's winning score was the lowest by three strokes since the event started in 1981.

Lee Westwood, of England, and Kang Wook-Soon, of South Korea, both broke the previous course record by one shot when scoring 66, five under par, in the first round of the Macau Open. Westwood had seven birdies while Kang had an eagle and five birdies. Chris Williams, of England, scored 67.

Dougherty was not put off by the west wind nor the bumpy greens nor a heavy hailstorm that started as he was playing the 17th and caused play to be delayed for half an hour just as he needed to chip and putt to set the new record.

If success at golf is as much a question of mental approach as is said, then Dougherty, who will be 17 next month, seems well equipped already. Certainly he looked impressively in control of himself on the 18th when, after a considerable delay, he chipped from 15 yards and holed a testing six-footer to set the record.

Dougherty's only dropped stroke came on the 3rd, a difficult short hole played into the wind, where he chipped eight feet past the hole and missed the putt. He went on to birdie the 5th and eagle the 7th. He got another birdie on the 10th, chipped to one foot and one-putted the 15th and birdied the 16th by hitting an enormous drive over the left bunker and following with a seven-iron to five feet. He was on the 17th when the weather worsened and by the time he and Richard Costello reached the 18th green, it was covered in snow and play was suspended.

Good as Dougherty's last round was, it did not enable him to catch Porter, who birdied his last two holes for a 68, or Grewal, who had two 69s yesterday. But for a 78 in the first round, seven strokes worse than Grewal and eight worse than Porter, Dougherty might have won. What went wrong in the first round, he was asked. "I took 41 putts," he replied, grinning.

Dougherty spent last winter at the Nick Faldo Institute in Orlando, practising under the eye of Chip Koehlke, who is now working as Faldo's coach. He will do the same this coming winter and probably the one after as well as he prepares for an inevitable career as a professional.

"All I want to be is a professional," Dougherty said. To his credit he has not ignored his studies. In his recent GCSEs he got ten A grades, five of them starred.



MIKE SCOTT

David Porter, who won the McEvoy Trophy yesterday with a four-round total of 280, blasts out of a greenside bunker

Wind leaves field feeling blue

From Mel Webb in Sintra, Portugal

IT IS a good job that the Estoril Open is not a yacht race: if it were, most of the competitors would have been dismasted by now. Not that the golfers here have fared much better — the winds sweeping through the hills of Sintra turned the scoreboard into an ocean of blue numbers yesterday.

The wretched individuals bobbing round helplessly in the sea of above-par blue were virtually powerless to counter the conditions. If they took a six-iron, the gale would swiftly gust against them, to leave them wishing they had taken two clubs more. If they chose a four-iron, the ball might just as abruptly be borne into yonder country by a blast up its stern. Frustrating? That was not the half of it.

The consequence was that the first day of the tournament turned from the playing of a game to a battle for survival and sanity. Nobody escaped unscathed and some trudged off with morale smashed into a thousand small fragments.

The portents were not good before the tournament even started. Mikael Eriksson, the tournament director, and Guy Hunt, one of the tournament administrators, were at the highest spot of the undulating Penha Longa course when the roof of their buggy was ripped from its moorings.

The roof was last seen heading towards Lisbon 15 miles to the north. Eriksson and Hunt ran for cover, then, when they ventured out again a little later, the windscreen of the same buggy parted company with the rest of the vehicle too: murder on the no-claims bonus.

Few made even a passing fist of scoring respectably. Justin Rose had a 78 and will need something special if he is to make the first cut of his professional career at his seventeenth attempt. This time he was in good company — others whose cards suffered mortal damage included Mark James, Sam Torrance, and David Howell, the leader of the European money list.

In the circumstances, the scores of 69, three under par, produced by Van Phillips and Phillip Price, the joint leaders, were worthy efforts. Of the 78 players in the morning section of the field, 55 were over par, with Antonio Dantas da Silva the worst of them on 19 over par. Not surprising, perhaps, except that da Silva is an assistant at Penha Longa — so much for local knowledge.

Phillips was one of the doughty 23 who had par figures or better before lunch and he was understandably pleased with himself. Neither Phillips, who won the Portuguese Open last month, nor Price are ebullient characters, but it was a day when simple numbers told the story.

Price enlightened everybody by suggesting that "it was really tough out there", while Phillips's most daring expedition into soundbite territory was: "I played solid all day." A statement of the stunningly obvious in the first case and grammatically flawed in the second, perhaps, but one knew what they meant.

SCORES

FIRST-ROUND LEADERS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **69:** V Phillips, P Price. **70:** R Goosen (SA), D Carter, P McGinley. **71:** A Oldcorn, J Rystrom (Swe), T Gillis (US), A Hansen (Den), M Jonzon (Swe), P Quirici (Switz). **72:** M Florioli (It), M A Martin (Sp), F Tarnaud (Fr), G Emerson, J M Arruti (Sp), D Edlund (Swe), J Rivero (Sp), J Spence, A Raitt, J Senden (Aus); I Pyman, R Coles, D Chopra (Swe), M Tunnicliff, D Cooper, P Lawrie, M Scarpa (It). **73:** E Darcy, S Bennett, J Bickerton, R Chapman, G Ogilvy (Aus), C Watts, R Winchester, J Quiros (Sp), P Baker, P Linhart (Sp), F Cea (Sp), J Van De Velde (Fr). **74:** S Soffietti (It), S Kjeldsen (Den), J Dias (Por), R Gonzalez (Arg), J Sandelin (Swe), E Canonica (It), S Tinning (Den), C Hanell (Swe), P Mitchell, S Luna (Sp), C Cevaer (Fr). **75:** R Russell, M Hallberg (Swe), P Hedblom (Swe), A Sobrinho (Por), S Allan (Aus), F Lindgren (Swe), H Santos (Por), D Lee, T Muñoz (Sp), D Gilford, M Long (NZ), J Coceres (Arg), S Henderson, I Garbutt. **76:** R McFarlane, S Cage, S Hansen (Den), F Jacobson (Swe), C Rocca (It), M James, D Silva (Por), S Talbot (Can), M Pilkington, P Eales, I Garrido (Sp), R Jacquelin (Fr), A Sherborne, J Robinson, G Owen, P Affleck, A Celka (Ger), P Walton. **77:** D Borrego (Sp), S Torrance, A Clapp, R Drummond, G Orr, A Coltart, F Valera (Sp), R Lee, D Robertson, B Lane, M Olander (Swe). **Other scores: 78:** J Rose, D Howell

RUGBY UNION

Wembley's special aura has served Wales well

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

WALES have good reason to regret leaving their temporary home at Wembley, and not only because of the almost unbelievable events there last Sunday, which showed once again, thankfully, that sport still retains the capacity to surprise which, in truth.

It is time to praise the third personality that brought its influence to bear on the weekend's spectacular events. The two teams draw the crowd's attention and they respond, variously but passionately. They make the game, of course. But what of the stadium itself? It has proved an inspired choice as a temporary refuge, for I have no doubt it has exerted its own distinctive character on the rugby matches that have been played there.

Seeped into its grand old structure are the recollections of the great deeds and dramas staged there over the decades. The ghosts of a famous past — 1966 and all that — have visited all the rugby teams that have appeared on the ground..

Gwyn Jones, Wales's captain on his first visit to the old place wrote, in Welsh, in the weekend's programme that he had played out his playground dreams of treading the famous turf.

We have all been on that playground and we all understand the boyish glimpse of immortality. Jones said he found the atmosphere uniquely special. He was not let down.

Even Jonny Wilkinson, at 19 the youngest player on Sunday's field of dreams and with but a brief experience, hopes that he might one day be back to play there again.

Each of Wales's opponents, from the southern as well as the northern hemispheres, felt the unique attraction of this sporting grande dame, who contrives to make refurbished grounds elsewhere look no more than callow if colourful and attractive flirts; an aristocrat among the nouveaux riches.

Yet Wembley, too, is feeling the wind of change. With the Twin Towers about to come down, will it be able to retain the proud and unique distinctiveness that generations have cherished?

To be sure, the rugby matches there have been rubbed with stardust. Apart from being inspired by the historical associations, the Wembley pitch gives a player a sense of space. He may not have the time but he does have the room to swank. This may be an illusion, but the teams who played there against Wales have ignored the tight approach: each has attempted to exploit the sense of freedom to run. They have felt the need to rise to the occasion. And so, without exception, they have done.

There is another reason for a warm glow of appreciation. For the two seasons that Wales have played there, Wembley's aura has somehow encouraged a festival mood. Even on those days when Wales have been beaten, the outcome, curiously, has been a radiant light heart and no sense of a psyche beleaguered.

It was not just after the final whistle on Sunday that there was a sense of joy. It had been present throughout the day. Whereas at Cardiff, as elsewhere on international match days, there is an inhibiting tension, a tight wariness perhaps, there has instead been a jauntiness of spirit as the televison pictures demonstrated beforehand.

If, for a prelude, it took more than one man in a white suit to animate the crowd into song, it was all of a piece. The extravaganza of the spectacle's start — Tom Jones, Max Boyce et al — was well matched by the extravagance at the end.

The extra 25,000 tickets made available because of Wembley's greater capacity compared to the old Cardiff Arms Park, may have introduced a new, more appreciative, less complacent audience, more youthful and more mixed perhaps than the old familiar guard who always know how to get their hands on scarce tickets.

The question for the Welsh Rugby Union is how can they transfer the exuberance of the mood created in North London and relocate it on the banks of the Taff.

Pugh in Olympic push

RUGBY union could be the next leading sport on the Olympic stage if Vernon Pugh has his way (Mark Souster writes). Speaking in Buenos Aires yesterday, Pugh, the chairman of the International Rugby Board (IRB), repeated his desire that rugby be granted Olympic status.

"We recognise the development of good personal contacts, political influence and persistence as fundamental requirements," Pugh said. Pugh, in Argentina for the IRB's annual meeting, reiterated his belief that rugby was now a global sport with 84 countries affiliated to the IRB.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Guscott, has not recovered from a hamstring injury and will not play for Bath against London Irish in the Allied Dunbar Premiership tomorrow. Scotland, hoping to build on the euphoria of their Five Nations Championship success, will play two pre-World Cup internationals against Romania and Argentina, away from Murrayfield. McDiarmid Park in Perth and Pittodrie Stadium in Aberdeen are two venues under consideration.

BOWLS

Lockhart homes in on double

By David Rhys Jones

DAVE LOCKHART and David Holt, who helped Noel Burrows, their Blackpool Borough club-mate, to win the national indoor triples title on Wednesday, are hoping to complete a notable double by winning the pairs final at Melton Mowbray today.

By teatime, Lockhart and Holt, who is the manager of the Blackpool Borough club, will have played ten games, each one lasting at least four hours, since Sunday night. In the final, the Blackpool pair will meet Richard Hindley and his son-in-law, Kevin Cousins, from the Five Rivers club in Salisbury.

Hindley is the father — and Cousins the husband — of Kathryn Hindley, who won the English under-25 singles in 1995, and added the British Isles junior singles title the following year.

"It's a proud moment for me, because I can step out of Kathryn's shadow," Hindley said. "Up to now I've been the baggage man and chauffeur, but now, thanks to Kevin, I'm in a national final."

Yesterday, the Blackpool pair edged through uncertainly against two brothers from Handy Cross, Richard and Matthew Hyde, but overwhelmed Mark Elliott and Jason Roope, from Acle, 26-6 in the semi-final.

Five Rivers reached the final by beating David Holmes and Gordon Charlton, of Folkestone, 20-14, then turned a 10-6 deficit into a 19-14 victory over Len Essex and Peter McGuinness, of Desborough, Maidenhead.

Both semi-finals of the women's world indoor championship will feature players from Scotland and Guernsey. The defending champion, Caroline McAllister, from Lochwinnoch, faces a challenge from Anne Simon, while Kate Adams, the 1993 world champion, from Auchinleck, takes on Allison Merrien.

France reaps reward for progress made

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Christopher Irvine

THE Silk Cut Challenge Cup will feature two teams from France for the first time next year, while the World Cup, which is being staged in the four home countries and France in October 2000, has attracted a new title sponsor impressively early. As the game broadens its appeal, a lucrative sponsorship of the World Cup will be announced in Manchester next Monday, in advance of the 16-nation draw, on May 25, at the Savoy Hotel, London.

French clubs competed for two seasons in the now-defunct Regal Trophy, but got no further than the second round. Admission of the championship play-off finalists to compete from the third round of the Challenge Cup represents a further warming of relations between the countries after the failure in 1997 of the Paris Saint-Germain Super League outfit.

Invitations were issued by Neil Tunnicliffe, the Rugby Football League chief executive, after talks with the French Federation, which has also welcomed the restoration of Anglo-French fixtures. "We are anxious to support the game in France, which has made rapid strides in five years," Tunnicliffe said.

Halifax Blue Sox have seemingly overcome differences with players over win bonuses. Not that any are likely to be paid out after the home JJB Super League match tonight against Wigan Warriors, who have beaten Halifax on nine successive occasions.

Wigan can take over the league leadership from St Helens on points difference and welcome the return of Greg Florimo at stand-off half after a thigh injury. With Mark Reber resuming responsibility at scrum half, Andy Farrell and Jason Robinson revert to their more familiar positions. Wigan, who give a debut on the bench to Phil Jones, the half back, cannot afford additions to an extensive injury list.

Leeds Rhinos, reinforced by Daryl Powell and Ryan Sheridan at half back and Barrie McDermott and Jamie Mathiou up front, need to set aside the distraction of their forthcoming Challenge Cup final when they play Hull Sharks at Headingley tonight.

Southgate lose Rott for Cannock duel

HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin and Cathy Harris

CANNOCK and Southgate meet again tomorrow at Reading, in the men's National League premier division play-offs. The winners will qualify for the final at Milton Keynes on May 3. In the league fixtures between the clubs, Cannock won the first 2-0 and the second was drawn 2-2. Southgate are without Eiko Rott, their German centre forward, whose recurring knee trouble has put him out of action for the rest of the season.

Earlier in the day, Reading will take on Canterbury, their league matches having produced a 4-1 win for Canterbury and a 6-3 victory for Reading, whose defence is strengthened by the return of Wyatt, fully recovered from the hand injury that kept him out for several weeks. The winners will meet the losers of the game between Cannock and Southgate, on Sunday, to decide the last place in the final.

Surrey will defend the senior title in the county championship when the two-day preliminary round starts tomorrow, in two divisions. The winners of each pool qualify for the final stages at Milton Keynes on May 1-2.

Slough may have finished top of the women's premier division for the third successive season but, for the first time, they cannot call themselves champions. In the inaugural season of the league play-offs, they meet Ipswich in the first stage at Reading tomorrow.

The new system had attracted criticism and praise in equal measures and, while the players generally agree that the side finishing at the top of the league should be crowned champions, most agree that securing a place in the play-offs by finishing in the top four has helped to keep the season alive.

Sue Chandler, the Slough captain, who was recalled to the England team earlier this week, believes her side have already proved they are the best. "We are still looking forward to playing Ipswich because it's a big game," she said.

The winners will qualify automatically for the final on May 3, while the losers take on the winners of the match between Clifton and Hightown for the other berth in the final.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 11 Kansas City 4; Detroit 7 Minnesota 1; Toronto 7 Tampa Bay 6 (11 inns); New York Yankees 14 Baltimore 7. Oakland 6 Anaheim 5. Texas 9 Seattle 6
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 5 Cincinnati 4. Montreal 15 Milwaukee 1. St Louis 9 Pittsburgh 5. New York Mets 4 Florida 1. Atlanta 10 Philadelphia 4; Arizona 6, Los Angeles 2. Houston 6, San Francisco 3

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER PLAY-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals, second leg: Sheffield Sharks 100 Greater London Leopards 82 (series tied 1-1). Thames Valley Tigers 114 Derby Storm 93 (Thames Valley win series 2-0)
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 70 Atlanta 77. Philadelphia 96 Toronto 78; Washington 95 New York 89 (OT); Charlotte 83 Detroit 79. Indiana 83 Orlando 80; Chicago 81 Cleveland 89. Houston 102 Vancouver 85; Milwaukee 98 Miami 88. San Antonio 95 Minnesota 79; Denver 120 New Jersey 97; Seattle 94 Phoenix 101

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: Men's All-England championships: Triples: Final: D Lockhart, D Holt and N Burrows (Blackpool Borough) bt D Hall, A Prew and L Gillett (Chipping Norton) 19-11. **Pairs: Quarterfinals:** Five Rivers (R Hindley and K Cusins) bt Folkestone (D Holmes and G Charlton) 20-14. Desborough Maidenhead (L Essex and P McGuinness) bt Herts (S Martindale and A Cawdell) 20-10. Acle (J Roope and M Elliott) bt Wymondham Dell (K and R Guy) 22-12. Blackpool Borough (D Lockhart and D Holt) bt Handy Cross (R and M Hyde) 21-17. **Semi-finals:** Five Rivers bt Desborough (Maidenhead) 19-14. Blackpool Borough bt Acle 26-6

PRESTWICK: Women's world indoor championship: Section A: A Doggart (Ire) bt C McAllister (Scot) 0-7, 7-0, 7-0. A Dewes (Wales) bt K Hornen (Jer) 4-7, 7-0, 7-0. **Final placings:** 1. McAllister 5pts; 2. Doggart 4; 3. Hornan 5. 4. Davies 4. **Section B:** M Letham (Scot) bt M Castle (NZ) 7-6, 7-5. P Nolan (Ire) bt J Jones (Jer) 2-7, 7-3, 7-4. **Final placings:** 1, Letham 9pts. 2, Castle 5. 3, Nolan 3. 4, Jones 1. **Section C:** K Adams (Scot) bt S Smith (Can) 7-0, 7-4. L Hartwell (SA) bt A Simon (Guer) 7-3, 7-1. **Final placings:** 1, Adams 7pts 2, Simon 4. 3, Smith 4; 4, Hartwell 3. **Section D:** M Jones (Wales) bt A Merrien (Guer) 7-3, 0-7, 7-6; L Smith (HK) bt M Swerdlow (Isr) 7-5, 2-7, 7-3. **Final placings:** 1, Merrien 6pts 2, Jones 5. 3, Smith 4. 4, Swerdlow 3. **Quarter-finals:** McAllister bt Jones 5-7, 7-0, 7-3, 7-3; Simon bt Letham 7-2, 1-7, 7-3, 7-5. Adams bt Doggart 1-7, 7-0, 7-3, 7-0. Merrien bt Castle 4-7, 7-6, 7-0, 7-6

CRICKET

One-day international

West Indies v Australia

ST GEORGE'S (Australia won toss): Australia beat West Indies by 46 runs

AUSTRALIA: 288-4 (50 overs; D S Lehmann 110 not out, M G Bevan 72 not out)

WEST INDIES

S L Campbell b Lee	46
S Chanderpaul c Lee b Fleming	0
*B C Lara b Fleming	9
†J C Adams b Warne	40
C L Hooper c and b S R Waugh	17
S C Williams c sub b Warne	25
K L T Arthurton b Lee	0
P V Simmons c Lee b Reiffel	39
H R Bryan lbw b Warne	6
C E L Ambrose run out	23
R D King not out	12
Extras (lb 3, w 14, nb 8)	25
Total (47.3 overs)	**242**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-3, 2-18, 3-102, 4-125, 5-135, 6-140, 7-174, 8-183, 9-215

BOWLING. Fleming 8-1-45-2, Reiffel 8-0-53-1; Julian 7-0-49-0. Martyn 2-0-5-0. Warne 10-2-39-3, M E Waugh 3-0-13-0; Lee 6-0-22-2; S R Waugh 3 3-0-13-1.

Umpires: S A Bucknor and W Doctrove

CYCLING

ALCANIZ, Spain: Tour of Aragon: Second stage (Monzon to Alcaniz): 1, M Wust (Ger) 4hr 10min 37sec; 2, M Cipollini (It) 3, G Magnusson (Swe) 4, B Boscardin (Switz); 5, E Zabel (Ger). 6, P Lopes (Por) all at same time. **Leading overall positions:** 1, Wust 9hr 32min 4sec. 2, Cipollini at 4 sec. 3, Zabel 4. 4, Magnusson 8. 5, A Edo (Sp) 8. 6, J Hunt (GB) 8.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CUP: Semi-final replay: Arsenal 1 Manchester United 2
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Middlesbrough 0 Chelsea 0.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division. Manchester City 2 Luton 0; Millwall 2 Colchester 0. Stoke 2 Wycombe 2. **Third division:** Scarborough 0 Darlington 2
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Doncaster 2 Northwich 2. Forest Green 1 Barrow 1.
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Hearts 2 Celtic 4, Rangers 1 Dunfermline 0
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Bradford PA 0 Ashton 3
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 2 Tamworth 0. **Midland division:** RC Warwick 1 Moor Green 3, Wisbech 0 Stafford 2. **Southern division:** St Leonards 1 Fisher 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Croydon 2 Oxford City 0, Wealdstone 1 Wembley 0. **Third division:** Tring 0 Aveley 5
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 0 Blackburn 0; Nottm Forest 0 Sunderland 2; Preston 3 Derby 1. **First division:** Barnsley 4 Oldham 1. Burnley 0 Wolverhampton 3; Grimsby 0 Middlesbrough 2; Port Vale 3 Bolton 2. **Second division:** Bradford 0 Shrewsbury 1. Newcastle 6 Lincoln 1. Stockport 2 Huddersfield 0; Wrexham 1 Blackpool 0; York 3 Notts County 0. **Third division:** Chesterfield 5 Halifax 0. Hull 0 Scunthorpe 2; Rochdale 1 Chester 2; Walsall 4 Bury 3
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster 1 Ilkeston 0.
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Southern division: Whitehawk 0 Three Bridges 1
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Downton 2 Portsmouth RN 2; Hamble ASSC 0 Christchurch 0. Money Fields 3 Bemerton Heath Harl 1
NIGERIA: World youth championship: Second round: Ghana 2 Costa Rica 0 (in Kaduna), Nigeria 1 Ireland 1 (Nigeria win 5-3 on pens, in Kano). Brazil 4 Croatia 0 (in Calabar). Paraguay 2 Uruguay 2 (Uruguay win 10-9 on pens, in Lagos). Spain 3 USA 2 (at Port Harcourt). Japan 1 Portugal 1 (in Bauchi)
FRENCH LEAGUE: Le Havre 2 Nantes 1. Metz 1 Paris St Germain 1, Montpellier 1 Lyons 3. Strasbourg 2 Toulouse 0. Girondins Bordeaux 0 Lorient 0, Auxerre 0 Monaco 3.
GERMAN LEAGUE: 1860 Munich 0 Bayer Leverkusen 2; Borussia Mönchengladbach 2 VfL Bochum 2; Borussia Dortmund 2 SC Freiburg 1. Hertha Berlin 1 MSV Duisburg 3
ITALIAN CUP: Final, first leg: Parma 1 Fiorentina 1.

GOLF

FATHER AND SONS FOURSOMES: West Hill: Third round: D H and A Greenhalgh bt D and S Hiscocks 2 and 1; R W and I Attoe bt C C and J Hamlidge 2 and 1. J and D Niven bt G N and M Batt-Rawden 2 holes. D E W and A Harvie bt M W A and A Coffey 4 and 2. J and T Hubbard bt R W and M Elsdon Dew 1 hole; R E and K Boxall bt D J and A Mills 5 and 4. R J and J Lavelle bt J J and J Tarbuck 4 and 3; P E and G Winkworth bt G A and R Gray 1 hole, I H and C Dyce bt B J and R Groce 2 holes, S J and J Tedrake bt W H B and A Kidd 1 hole, A E and I Oakes bt R W and J Krefting 1 hole; P B F and S Brown bt P J R and A Bathurst 4 and 3; J and M Walton bt R L and G Smith 4 and 2. J T and J Green bt A S and J Lloyd 5 and 4. P E and D Story bt J and A Baldwin 1 hole; A T and J Francis bt R C W and N Stokes 3 and 2. **Fourth round:** R W and I Attoe bt D H and A Greenhalgh 3 and 2, D E W and A Harvie bt J and D Niven 2 and 1, R E and K Boxall bt J and T Hubbard 2 and 1. R J and J Lavelle bt P E and G Winkworth 2 and 1, S J and J Tedrake bt I H and C Dyce 2 and 1, P B F and S Brown bt A E and I Oakes 4 and 3. J and M Walton bt J T and J Green 2 holes. A T and J Francis bt P E and D Story 1 hole. **Quarter-finals:** R W and I Attoe bt D E W and A Harvie 3 and 2, R E and K Boxall bt R J and J Lavelle at 19th; P B F and S Brown bt S J and J Tedrake 3 and 1, J and M Walton bt A T and J Francis 3 and 2.

MACAU OPEN: Leading first-round scores: 66: L Westwood (GB), Kang Wook-soon (S Kor). **67:** P Marksaeng (Thai), Choi Kyung-ju (S Kor). C Williams (GB), Andrew Pitts (US). **68:** H Ching-sheng (Taiwan). Zhang Lian-wei (China), Kim Wan-tae (S Kor). **69:** C Tse-peng (Taiwan), A Johl (India), T Yamanaka (Japan), M Mamat (Sing), V Bhandari (India), T Ichihara (Japan). **Other score 72:** D Clarke (GB).

COPT HEATH, Solihull: McEvoy Trophy: Leading final scores: 280: D Porter (Stoneham) 70, 69, 73, 68. **282:** S Grewal (Heswall) 71, 73, 69, 69. **286:** N Dougherty (Shaw Hill) 78, 70, 72, 66. **287:** P Wheatcroft (Worksop) 73, 69, 73, 72. **289:** R Coulson (Hull) 74, 73, 70, 72. **290:** L Gaulther (East Berks) 74, 76, 69, 71. **291:** J Doherty (Vale of Glamorgan) 74, 75, 71, 71, S Godfrey (St Enodoc) 75, 72, 71, 73. **292:** Z Scotland (Woodcote Park) 77, 70, 74, 71. **293:** S Fromant (Orsett) 71, 73, 77, 72. **294:** G Harris (Reading) 72, 74, 72, 76. J Lawson (Enford Heath) 75, 70, 76, 73

ICE HOCKEY

ODENSE, Denmark: World championship: Pool B: Germany 4 Estonia 1, Denmark 5 Hungary 1. Kazakhstan 4 Slovenia 0 Great Britain 4 Hungary 2
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 1 New Jersey 2; Carolina 3 Washington 0. Detroit 4 Nashville. 2 Florida 3 Montreal 2 (OT). Toronto 3 New York Islanders 2 (OT), Dallas 4 Phoenix 2. Calgary 5 Vancouver 4. Anaheim 1 St Louis 3

ROWING

NOTTINGHAM: Spring International Trials: Men's pairs: 1, S Dennis (Queens Tower) and S Williams (Oxford Brookes) 6min 43sec. 2, S Trapmore (Notts County) and R Thatcher (Leander) 6:46; 3, A Lindsay (Oxford University) and L Attrill (Queens Tower) 6 46.2. **Men's lightweight pairs:** 1, N Strange and N Kihoe (Leander) 6:50; 2, D Lemon and J McNiven (Notts County) 6:51; 3, J McGarva and G Davis (Notts County) 6 53. **Men's sculls:** 1, M Wells (London University) 7.10. 2, P Gardner (Leander) 7:14; 3, G McAdams (Notts County) 7.14 4. **Men's lightweight sculls:** 1, T Male (Tideway Scullers) 7 08. 2, T Kay (Notts County) 7 12. 3, M Beechey (Worcester) 7 18sec. **Women's pairs:** 1, D Blackie (Thames) and C Bishop (Marlow) 7:32. 2, K Mackenzie (Thames) and F Zino (Queens Tower) 7 39. 3, K Templeton (Thames) and C Kirman (Army) 7 43. **Women's sculls:** 1, G Batten (Thames) 7 44. 2, G Lindsay (Marlow) 7:47. 3, A Mowbray (Thames) 7 48. **Women's lightweight sculls:** 1, G Nitsch (Kingston) 8:06. 2, C Jones (Wallingford) 8:06 9. 3, S Birch (Kingston) 8:09

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Rochdale 36 Barrow 16

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: RAF 7 Royal Navy 28
AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Portadown 36 UCC 13

SHOOTING

BLOEMFONTEIN: SANRA championships: President's stage I: 1, T Whittaker (US) 105.20 (tie shoot 25 1); 2, A Powell (Aus) 105.20 (t/s 24 4). 3, C Lavelle (US) 105.20. 4, J Mantz (SA) 105.20. 5, R Gustin (US) 105.20. 6, S Penrose (GB) 105.20. **The Bodley:** 1, J Moolman (SA) 100.6. 2, P Pearce (Aus) 100.5. 3, N Tompkins-Gallagher (US) 100.5. **Wednesday aggregate:** 1, P Pearce (Aus) 205.24. 2, C Lavelle (US) 204.25. 3, N Tompkins-Gallagher (US) 204.22. **Grand aggregate:** 1, R Lauterbach (SA) 658.68. 2, Messer 657.70. 3, T Whittaker (US) 656.76

TENNIS

BARCELONA OPEN: Second round: T Henman (GB) bt M Puerta (Arg) 7-6, 6-7, 7-5. Spadea bt R Gilbert (Fr) 6-3, 6-0 (Gilbert selected to play from first-round losers in place of Sampras). K Alami (Mor) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6-3, 6-1
TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Third round: T Enqvist (Swe) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-2, 6-2. T Johansson (Swe) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. N Kiefer (Ger) bt M Sell (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. S Lareau (Can) bt S Schalken (Neth) 2-6, 7-6, 7-6. J Bjorkman (Swe) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6-7, 6-4, 6-4. K Carlsen (Den) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 7-5, 6-2. W Ferreira (SA) bt L Burgsmuller (Ger) 6-3, 6-4. R Krajicek (Neth) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-4, 6-4. **Women: Second round:** C Morariu (US) bt M Washington (US) 6-2, 6-0. A Sugiyama (Japan) bt L Nemeckova (Cz) 6-4, 6-1. J Chi (US) bt S de Beer (SA) 6-4, 6-3. C Morariu (US) bt M Washington (US) 6-2, 6-0

ATHLETICS: LONDON WINNER LAMENTS LACK OF CHALLENGERS FOR BRITISH RECORD

Marot survives test of time

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

It is a question guaranteed to deceive almost any contestant on any quiz show. Who holds the British record for the women's marathon? Images of Liz McColgan winning the London Marathon, recollections of her brash predictions of the fast times she would run, flash to mind. So it must be McColgan, right? Wrong.

McColgan may be missing from the London Marathon field this year, but the British record-holder is not. Veronique Marot will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the record she set in winning the race in 1989 by lining up for her first run over the distance in six years on Sunday. Though she is a 43-year-old jogger now, perhaps the event should give her an elite number for old time's sake. No other British woman deserves one. It is a startling indictment of the state of British women's marathon running that, without the absent McColgan and Marian Sutton, twice winner of the Chicago Marathon, there is not a British woman good enough to start with the women's elite field. If a British woman breaks 2hr 40min it will come as a surprise. Certainly none will produce a time that would have put her within two miles of Marot on that spring day in 1989.



In *The Times* next week, a comprehensive list of all the finishers in the London Marathon

Marot's 2hr 25min 56sec has not only proved beyond the reach of McColgan but every other London women's winner except Ingrid Kristiansen and Grete Waitz, the legendary Norwegians. "I have acquired a pride in it over the years," Marot said. "When it first happened, I thought it was just in a day's work."

Those who knew Marot at her peak will recall her as plain-speaking. Little has changed in the woman who is now a mother of two and operates her own business law practice. Why has the standard dropped so alarmingly from the days when Britain could feel confident of, year after year, at least three women in the top ten in London?

"American syndrome," Marot said. "Life is too sweet. The women do not train hard enough. They think they can get away with less."

While admitting it is harder to run fast in London now, given that the women's race is separated from the men's, Marot does not regard that as explanation enough. Specifically on McColgan, whose best is 2:26.52, she said: "One year, when Liz could have broken it, she took no risks." That was 1996 and McColgan would argue that it was the win that mattered.

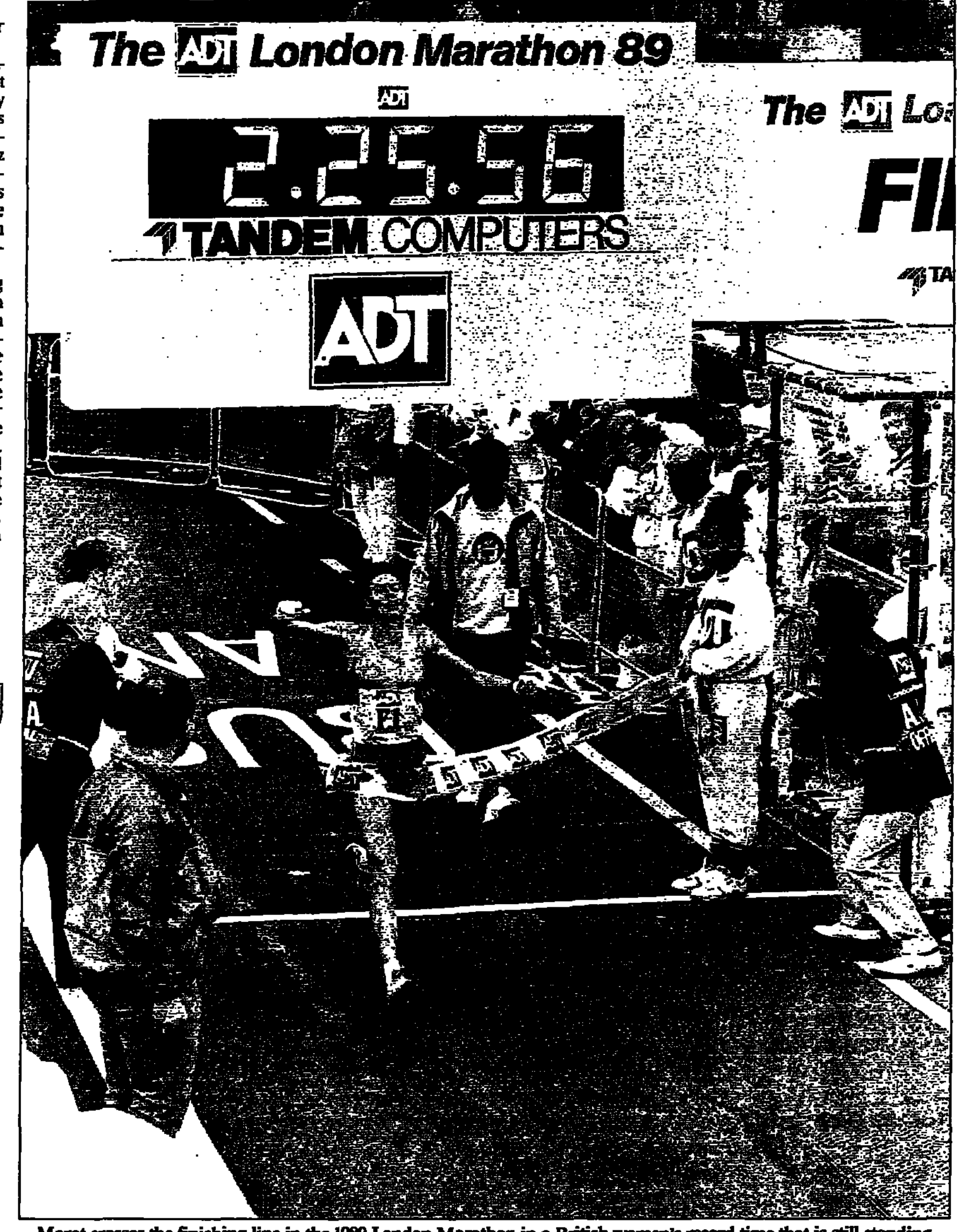
"The wind can be a factor in London but, when conditions have been good, they have been too interested in looking at each other to run fast," Marot added. To her eye, McColgan has a fault common among many of Britain's marathon runners. "There is something about Liz's running style that is cramped and uneconomical," Marot said. "She surges forward like a horse trying to catch a carrot. It is not enough of a shuffler style.

"If you look at Kristiansen, her shoulders might have been high but the lower part of her body was more of a shuffler style. Joan Benoit has run 2:21 and she was the ultimate model of marathon running, effortless. None of these women coming up are real marathon runners. It is also a question of training. People think that time on their feet is enough but it is a combination of a good level of mileage and ensuring that all the sessions count."

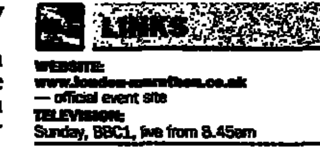
Marot ran hard most days, adding up to between 90 and 110 miles a week. "I think, also, most women are too keen to train off roads. A 20-miler has to be done on a hard surface. You are going to risk breaking down more easily but you have to take risks.

"When you get to 20 miles in the marathon your legs are tired from pounding and you have to prepare yourself for that." Not that Marot is following her own advice for Sunday. On 15 miles a week training, she is running for charity. "It will be my slowest time, probably, since I started in 1978, when I did 3:55. That was run on 15 miles a week, so I am back to the beginning."

Back from a time zone that no other British woman has visited. Or looks like visiting for years to come.



Marot crosses the finishing line in the 1989 London Marathon in a British women's record time that is still standing



WEBSITE: www.london-marathon.co.uk — official event site
TELEVISION: Sunday, BBC1, live from 8.45am

Brown remains guarded on his modest aims

British hope is downbeat about his chances in Sunday's race

The marathon has brought out the humility in Jon Brown. Over the years, Brown has been sharp with his tongue when talking of declining standards in British distance-running and suggesting, even before he had raced the distance, that other marathon runners did not impress him. Now he admits that he jumped the gun.

As Brown looks ahead to the Flora London Marathon, in which he is the only British hope of a top-three place, he is guarded about his prospects. After two marathons, in Chicago and London, Brown has yet to break 2hr 10min.

"I have had two difficult experiences in the marathons I have done," Brown said yesterday. "That has made me cautious and more wary about the latter stages. Now I have had the experience, I have a lot more respect for the event, that it can take its toll. I had not run over 20 miles before, so I did not know how much the body dislikes it."

In the main, Brown tried to play down his chances, but he was willing to go public with the target he has set himself. "I am hoping to run under 2:09," he said. Then he returned to his downbeat theme. "This race is not going to be the pinnacle of my marathon career," he said. "It is a stepping-stone to something else." He meant the Olympics.

Briefly, Brown lifted his guard on his inner thoughts. "Winning does not mean that much to me," he suggested. But it would if he won? "Yes," he admitted. "Often athletes take this approach and end up winning." Brown has good reason to expect improvement on Sunday. Since his last marathon, he has broken Eamonn Martin's British 10,000 metres record, achieved his highest place in the world cross-country championships and learnt a valuable lesson, preparing at sea-level this time rather than at altitude.



Brown: stepping-stone

"For 10k and cross country, altitude is good, but not for the marathon," Brown said. "The difference is the recovery rate when you are doing long-tempo runs. It is so much harder at altitude and I cannot run high mileage. I trained in Boulder [Colorado] last year and overdid it." Chicago he blamed on injury.

Brown has been around the track several times with repeated allegations that many of his rivals are on drugs and will not let go of the subject. The response from Antonio Pinto, twice the London champion, to Brown's comments yesterday was: "In Budapest [the European championships] I beat *him* fair and square, then in Brussels he beat me. Does anyone say he was taking EPO?"

David Powell

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

NEODAMODE
(a) Among the ancient Spartans, an enfranchised Helot. In Greek the words mean "new people". The Spartan constitution was a wonder of xenophobic and undemocratic complexity even to contemporaries.

PEAI
(c) A medicine-man or witch-doctor among the Indians of Guiana and other parts of South America. *Cf. piache or peai-man*, another name for the profession. An adaptation of the Carib word.

PARCENARY
(c) Joint heirship. An Anglo-French, Norman concept and word.

PIABA
(c) A small fresh-water fish of the size of a minnow, found in Brazilian rivers. The Tupi name for the little wriggler.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Bg6+! Kxg6; 2 Qh5 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Spotlight on a demagogue

Walden On Villains: Saddam Hussein
BBC2, 7.30pm

Brian Walden convincingly credits the West with both the creation of the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as a world-threatening monster and with the creation of the conditions which have enabled this thuggish and hardly super-human demagogue to retain control over his country. Like Hitler, Hussein has understood and exploited the need for national pride and identity, and created a sense that the world is ranged against the Iraqi people rather than his own evil intentions. Against the televisual odds, Walden again compels the attention and offers an intelligently skewed view of an apparently over-exposed subject.

Bad taste rules in *The Adam and Joe Show* (Channel 4, 11.10pm)

Family Feuds
ITV, 9pm

Pam St Clement (Pat in *EastEnders*) narrates this collection of anecdotes and reconstructions about strife within and between families, and she, as a Walford resident, should know something about the subject. The problem is that, although the stories may be interesting, and our love of gossip makes us willing viewers, too many of the examples are not feuds at all, but simple breakdowns in communication, or situations in which at least one of the parties in dispute is almost certainly suffering from some form of mental disorder. The 19-year-old Leonardo Di Caprio lookalike (on a good day, in the right light) who hasn't paid rent for years and whose distraught mother has stopped feeding and doing the laundry for, is obviously a lazy sponger; the woman whose compulsion to clean and scrub has driven her daughter from the house, just as clearly needs help. These are sad situations, not feuds.

Frasier
Channel 4, 10pm

Niles (David Hyde Pierce) is again the focus of an episode of what has lately seemed a rejuvenated show. His divorce from Maris is dragging on and he is persuaded to hire a tough new lawyer, Donny Davis (Saul Rubinek, very funny) to get things moving. When the rough-hewn Davis, whose coarse ways upset the Crane brothers' fine-tuned sensibilities, uncovers the truth about the origins of Maris's family money, success seems assured. However, he also seems to have found the key to the affections of Daphne, for whom Niles has still not declared his love

The Adam and Joe Show
Channel 4, 11.10pm

The third series of this award-winning comedy show, in which Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish push back the frontiers of bad taste, begins with a "Saving Private Lion", a soft-toy version of a similarly-titled movie (mangled toys and subversive remarks about the Americans winning the Second World War), explore the wilds of daytime television with "This Morning With Richard and Chewbacca" (all resentment and infighting) and get Baadad to Los Angeles, where he joins Coolio to make a rap record. They test tourist tolerance with a truly tacky Hollywood Waxwork Museum (nobody asks for a refund). Welcome back! **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

The Friday Play: Cocaine
Radio 4, 9pm

If you want me to be simplistic about it, I might say that Max Hillman's drama, set partly in Wales, is a defence of the eponymous drug. And there's no denying that Hillman does utilise cocaine as a way of bridging the yawning gap that has opened up between a son (Rhys Ivans) and the bereaved father (Robert Pugh) whose only way of deflecting life's slings and arrows is to exclaim "Sod it!". But thankfully, *Cocaine* has deeper depths than this, and its language is generally more heightened. I don't suppose, however that there are many grease-monkeys working in garages whose philosophical musings include such metaphors as "Memory licked her tongue up and down the stairs of my spine."

The Rodgers and Hammerstein Story
Radio 2, 10pm

It was Richard Rodgers who wrote the music and Oscar Hammerstein who wrote the words. It's always helpful to sort out in our own minds which of them did what, although Mary Rodgers, daughter of Richard, is co-presenting this six-part series (with David Jacobs) and I am confident that she will again make the distinction crystal clear for us in tonight's instalment. The problem is that Hammerstein's words and Rodgers's music live so happily together that it is almost impossible to imagine that they did not come from the same pen. Tonight's episode is taken up with some of the hit numbers from *Carousel*, written for the stage and considered by both to be their happiest collaborative effort. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** A Date with Destiny: Cook v Van Helden **2.00am** Fabio and Grooverider **4.00** Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Des Lynam **7.00** The Michael Feinstein Songbook — Turns Another Page (5/8) **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **9.15** John le Carré's Single and Single **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** The Rodgers and Hammerstein Story. See Choice (2/6) **10.30** Sheridan Morley **12.00** Lynn Parsons **4.00am** Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News with Allan Robb **1.00pm** Fi Glover, including commentary from Newbury on the Fred Darling Stakes **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green presents news from the Division One game between Barnsley and Sunderland. Plus, the week's sporting issues **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Motoring **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **4.00** The Cricket Cup Final **8.00** Nicky Horne's Access all Areas **10.00** James H Reeve **1.00am** Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** James Merritt

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Focus On Faith **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** Science in Action **10.00** World News **10.05** Speaking Of English **10.20** The Vintage Chart Show **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Focus on Faith **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Science in Action **3.30** Music Review **4.00** World News **4.05** Football Extra **4.15** Coffee - A Hellish Brew **4.30** John Peel **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Short Story **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Focus on Faith **8.00** World News **8.05** Science in Action **8.30** The Way We Are **8.45** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Music Review **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** John Peel **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Science in Action **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Meridian Books **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-up **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Music to get the day off to a fine start **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Classic Masterpiece **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music **2.00pm** Concerto. C.P.E. Bach (Flute Concerto in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Shostakovich (Cello Concerto); Beethoven (Symphony No 9) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. C.P.E Bach (Flute Concerto in D minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny. Taverner (Dum transisset); Beethoven (Horn Sonata in F, Op 17)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Verdi (Overture: The Force of Destiny); Verdi (Deh, piezoso, Oh addolorata; Chi i bei di m'adduce)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Moura Lympany
11.00 Sound Stories: Architects John Nash, the favourite architect of the Prince Regent
12.00 Composer of the Week: JC Bach
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Paul Lewis, piano. Brahms (Four Ballades, Op 10); Haydn (Sonata in D, H XVI 37); Schubert (Fantasy in C, D760, Wanderer)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic. Beethoven (Leonore Overture No 3), under Charles Mackerras. Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 1 in C), under Yan Pascal Tortelier, Martin Roscoe, piano. Beethoven (Symphony No 9 in D minor, Choral), under Charles Mackerras, Yvonne Kenny, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo, Peter Bronder, tenor, Willard White, bass, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus
4.00 Music Restored Robert Hollingworth looks at the wide variety of all-male vocal groups who perform early music
5.00 In Tune Humphrey Carpenter introduces music including Berlioz's *Roman Carnival Overture*
7.30 Performance on 3: Endless Parade The opening concert of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's ten-day trip to Germany was given last Wednesday in the Philharmonie, Berlin. Introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Mischa Maisky, cello, BBC Scottish SO under Osmo Vanska. Mendelssohn (Overture: The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave); Haydn (Cello Concerto in D); Sibelius (Symphony No 1)
9.15 Postscript: Seamus Heaney at 60 (5/5)
9.35 Falla (Seven Popular Spanish Songs). Victoria de los Angeles, soprano, Gonzalo Soriano, piano
10.00 Hear and Now: Endless Parade Martyn Brabbins directs the London Sinfonietta in music by Ferneyhough, Bainbridge, Hesketh, Knussen and Sawer
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz (r)
12.00 Through the Night 12.05 Schumann (Variations on a Theme by Clara Wieck, Op 5) **12.15** Brahms (Alto Rhapsody) **12.30** Rudolf Escher (Le tombeau de Ravel) **1.00** Suk CO under Vadim Mazo. Elgar, Suk, Janacek **2.15** Schichkard (Sonata in C) **2.25** Boccherini (Concerto in E flat, G487) **2.45** Haydn (Symphony No 11) **3.10** Grieg (Violin Sonata in C minor, Op 45) **3.35** Erkki Melartin (Karelian Scenes) **3.45** Roussakis (Mi el fa) **4.00** Ippolitov-Ivanov (Caucasian Sketches) **4.25** Schubert (Concerto in G) **4.50** Handel (Return, O God of Hosts (Samson)) **5.00** Handel (Trio Sonata in G minor, Op 2 No 5) **5.15** Tartini (Cello Concerto in A) **5.30** Salzedo (Variations) **5.40** Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 4)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents rural reports
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political round-up
9.00 Desert Island Discs The flamenco guitarist Paco Pena chooses eight favourite records to take to the mythical isle (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Choice Chatwin Hugh Chatwin and Peter Eyre read extracts from Bruce Chatwin's *The Albatross* and *Your Father's Eyes Are Blue Again*
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour Jenni Murray talks to the actress Minnie Driver about her role in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*
11.00 How to Be Happy Guests including the pharmacologist Susan Greenfield, the historian Theodore Zeldin and the novelist Wendy Perriam discuss positive thinking. Carole Rosen chairs (r)
11.30 Married Comedy drama, by Tony Bagley. Robin books a children's entertainer for his son's birthday party. Starring Hugh Bonneville, Josie Lawrence and Barbara Murray (4/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues and public service reports, presented by Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Feedback Listeners' views of BBC radio
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: J. Edgar Hoover — Private and Confidential by Mike Walker. The last of four plays about the legendary anti-communist FBI director. Starring William Hootkins and David Soul
3.00 Making History Sue Cook gets to the bottom of historical mysteries
3.30 A Name to Remember Barbara Myers examines the career of Graham Hughes (5/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 75 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massey (r)
4.00 Open Book Audio books (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz Topical quiz with the *Times* columnist Alan Coren, Francis Wheen and Jeremy Hardy, hosted by Simon Hoggart
7.00 The Archers Helen celebrates her birthday
7.15 Front Row The art of creating suspense
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delafield's household journal, starring Imelda Staunton and Richard Hope. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Any Questions? Panellists including Michael Heseltine, MP, Lord Owen of Plymouth and Gunther Vepheigen answer questions with a European slant posed by an audience in Berlin
8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke with another slice of stateside life
9.00 The Friday Play: Cocaine Max Hillman's drama about a widower whose heartbroken son offers him consolation in the form of cocaine. Starring Rhys Ifans and Robert Pugh. See Choice
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Alan Howard reads the final part of Robert Harris's best-selling thriller
11.00 (FM only after 11.30pm) Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd chairs a discussion of current sports issues
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Kevin Whately reads part the final part of Philippa Gregory's novel
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



A big hand for Doctor Dreamboat's exit

When a soap superstar quits a soap it is always a huge tabloid news story, somewhere between "Nude Vicar Falls off Balcony" and "World War Three Declared". The publicity is more than enough to launch a solo singing career, for instance, or for Ross Kemp to fulfil his secret ambition to play the Hugh Grant parts in Merchant-Ivory adaptations of Jane Austen novels. That last bit was speculation by the way.

Endless explanations are proffered for their taking this bank-balance-jeopardising leap, most of them probably pure invention. My own theory, for what it's worth, is that after a while they start to fuse psychologically with the characters they play, and it suddenly dawns on them that they can't stand the lifestyle.

Sharing a home with "loveable Cockney sparrer" Babs Windsor would be trying enough without the danger of being caught in the eye by a low-flying brassiere. But living with Mike Reid would, for a sensitive human being, be a form of slow torture. Anyone who doubts what an awful comic he was can occasionally catch snippets of his old acts on extra-terrestrial repeat channels. They sap the will to live.

A New Year's Eve show from my childhood, when he sang *Roaming in the Gloaming* in a Cockney accent while Andy Stewart sang *Any Old Iron* in Scots, is seared on my memory as one of the most cringe-making moments in television history. The thought that he might suddenly revert and launch into a variety act is enough to drive anyone under the wheels of a singing contract. Tiffany and Grant just had to escape.

Which brings us to George Clooney leaving **ER** (Sky One). Forty million Americans watched *The Storm*, the heart-throb matinee-idol's finale as Dr Doug Ross. The rest of the cast must wonder if they will become like Hank Marvin's outfit without Cliff Richard — Shadows of their former selves.

The episode provided a clue to the reason for Clooney's departure. The fact that Clooney can command multibillion-dollar contracts in Hollywood is a trifling irrelevance; he probably just couldn't stand the shouting. *ER* is normally frantic. Last night, apart from a few short interludes of deeply touching slush, the show was in overdrive with the gas pedal flat on the floor.

As in most American dramas, half the action is over before the title sequence has ended. The school-kids were being cut free from the wreck of their bus; firemen rushed around with cutting equipment; a crane arrived while Dr Greene struggled to free a trapped boy.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

"We've got a pumper!" he yelled. Aren't American doctors graphic? Then someone showed up with a severed hand, which he thought was still usable. Meanwhile, across the city, "Dr Dreamboat" was staggering around, dazed after his own private prang.

But it is back at the hospital that things get truly manic. Everyone just shouts all the time. "B.P. 80 over 40!" — "Ruptured septum!" — "Haemorrhoidal defibrillation!" — that sort of thing. Imagine if you had a hearing problem. What was that? Something to the "radius and the ulna?", "What's down to 88?", did you say "an opulsive split"? What the heck is that?

"Hey, we need a hand!" cried a paramedic, unloading another victim. That guy from the crash scene had a spare one, but nobody thought to tell them.

Even in moments of relative calm the barrage of urgent medi-speak continues unabated. "CBCs normal — LFT is attenuated, especially ALT," said Dr Benton through gritted teeth. Pardon? Speciality BLT? Is that on wheat toast, hold the mayo?

I don't want to spoil the story for Channel 4 viewers who must wait until next month for this treat. Suffice it to say that everyone proves to be very noble and self-sacrificing, that they all love each other to bits and it's all very moving in a Kleenexy kind of way. And George Clooney finally escapes what the residents of the Queen Vic would refer to by its medical term: "GBH of the ear-'ole."

At least soap stars can walk away. **Dispatches** (Channel 4) unearthed a peculiarly nasty anomaly of the legal system whereby children can be forced to spend time with violent fathers who have beaten or otherwise abused their mothers. Some of the fathers have even attacked the children themselves before the separation.

Courts, apparently, take the view that fathers should be granted access to their children wherever possible. Individual judgments are influenced by the opinions of court welfare officers who have no specialised training in this area and may not even meet the children.

After an extensive survey by a pressure group called Amica *Dispatches* interviewed mothers and children who had been physically assaulted, terrorised or simply neglected by abusive fathers during mandatory access visits. One poor woman's children had been murdered on an access visit to her mentally unstable husband.

Dispatches has become not so much a "one-issue" programme as a "one side of one issue" programme. This has its merits. If you put a case forcefully, it probably has more impact, at least in the short term, than a worthy balancing of opposing arguments.

But nobody spoke to defend the system; the only judge we heard from wanted reform; nobody put a case for the court welfare officers, let alone for any of the husbands. Some children are clearly being harmed even as we sit reading our papers, and the matter seems to require urgent government attention, but I couldn't help wondering if that was all there was to it.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (12790)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (65719)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9936806)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (496055)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (6794090)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5717210)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9934239)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (5499582)
12.00 Going for a Song (3782069)
12.25pm Wipeout (9283054)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76785871)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (68806)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58935516)
1.40 Neighbours Sasha is found safe and sound (T) (16013413)
2.05 Ironside (r) (1901871)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2977326)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8307210) **3.45** Roald Dahl's Revolting Recipes (5585887) **4.00** Anthony Ant (5761158) **4.15** Get Your Own Back (7244351) **4.35** The Mask (7302055) **5.00** Newsround (5334852) **5.10** Blue Peter (2268351)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (386500)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (535)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (887)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show (T) (8784)
7.30 Top of the Pops The world premiere of Geri Halliwell's new video, plus performances by Martine McCutcheon, Meat Loaf and The Cranberries (T) (871)
8.00 Ground Force Alan Titchmarsh and his team of experts set about revamping the gardens around a watermill (r) (T) (8072)
8.30 The Builders The long-suffering Liz and Mark Burch are concerned about the progress of their extension (T) (3239)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (183974)



Alun Jenkins, owner of the UK's most exclusive dating agency (9.35pm)

9.35 The Matchmaker New series. Behind the scenes at a dating agency, from the matches made at its busy head office to the resulting blind dates, singles parties and love affairs (T) (969142)
10.15 Real Women Three-part series about five former schoolfriends who reunite when one of them announces she is getting married. Michelle Collins and Pauline Quirke star (1/3) (r) (T) (219264)
11.05 An Officer and a Gentleman (1982) FILM Romantic drama, starring Richard Gere as a Navy recruit put through his paces by a tough sergeant. With Debra Winger and Louis Gossett Jnr. Directed by Taylor Hackford (T) (982264)
1.05am Brass Target (1978) FILM Thriller about the death of American General Patton, allegedly murdered after discovering a plot to rob a German gold reserve. Sophia Loren and George Kennedy star. Directed by John Hough (T) (483475)
2.50 Weather (4244331)
2.55 BBC News 24 (36523833)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: *Noddy in Toyland (67177)* **7.30** Top Cat (8231887) **7.50** 50/50 (8995429) **8.18** Rewind (9103887) **8.20** Dastardly and *Muttley (8949245)* **8.40** *Polka Dot Shorts* (3422264) **8.50** Pingu (3428448) **9.00** The Munsters (7853500) **9.25** The Phil Silvers Show (7945535) **9.50** Just So Stories (7467790) **10.00** Teletubbies (29429) **10.30** FILM: Deception *(57979333)* **12.20pm** *Beautiful Things* (9143142) **12.30** Working Lunch (89784) **1.00** Johnson and Friends (38160993)
1.10 The Leisure Hour (13/20) (1606697)
2.10 Top Gear Take Two (35938622)
2.25 News; Weather (T) (89031245)
2.30 Racing from Newbury Includes coverage of the **2.40** National Golf Week Rated Stakes, **3.10** Dubai Duty Free Stakes, and the **3.40** Laurens Van der Post Rated Stakes (24581)
4.00 The Village (r) (7050790)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (7060177)
4.55 Esther (T) (9252887)
5.30 Whose House? (264)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (410887)
6.20 The Simpsons (r) (T) (414603)
6.45 Lee and Herring's This Morning with Richard, not Judy (r) (469516)
7.15 Electric Circus Angela Griffin offers a showbiz round-up (T) (358993)
7.30 CHOICE **Walden on Villains** Political commentator Brian Walden deconstructs the myths surrounding Saddam Hussein (T) (413)
8.00 As the Crow Flies Janet Street-Porter tramps from Leeds to Sherwood Forest (T) (8974)
8.30 Gardeners' World Gay Search visits a compact plot in Clevedon (T) (4581)
9.00 Have I Got News For You New series. Richard Whiteley and David Aaronovitch join team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop for the satirical news quiz. Hosted by Angus Deayton (5245)
9.30 Red Dwarf Pete the Sparrow is turned into a dinosaur (r) (T) (72448)
10.00 Rab C Nesbitt Comedy, with Gregor Fisher (r) (T) (667887)
10.33 Video Nation Shorts (T) (757264)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (966087)



Van Morrison perfoms live in the studio (11.20pm)

11.20 Later with Jools Holland New series of studio performances by leading music stars, beginning with Blur, Van Morrison, Wilco and Natacha Atlas (715413)
12.25am Sex, Censorship and the Silver Screen New series. Raquel Welch presents a look back through the history of film censorship (1/6) (9858901)
1.25 The Lost Squadron (1932) FILM Three former First World War pilots find work as stuntmen. With Erich von Stroheim, Joel McCrea and Richard Dix. Directed by George Archainbaud (5352901)
2.40 Weather (4196479) **2.45** Close
3.00 BBC Learning Zone (57307) **5.00** Close

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (52852)
6.00 GMTV (2879516)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3522887)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49068055)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7929239)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2616993)
12.55 WEST: Up the Creek (r) (T) (1602871)
12.55 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Australia, Ireland, the Bahamas and Spain's Costa del Sol (r) (T) (1602871)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16019697)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5977055)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2966210)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5747806)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5746177)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5736790) **3.25** Timbuctoo (5653413) **3.35** Animal Stories (5590719) **3.45** Giggly Bitz! (5407055) **4.00** Pump It Up (326) **4.30** Mystic Knights of Tir Na Nog (210)
5.00 Catchphrase (r) (T) (6516)
5.30 WEST Sportsweek (790)
5.30 WALES: Quiz Challenge General knowledge contest (T) (790)
5.58 HTV Weather (705018)
6.00 HTV News (T) (603)
6.29 Crimestoppers (598784)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (555)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Popular game show (T) (3852)
7.30 Coronation Street Mike keeps a dangerous liaison (T) (239)
8.00 Parking Wars The over-zealous clamper Mark is virtually taken prisoner by the head of a company paying for his services (4/6) (T) (2500)
8.30 Motorway Life PCs Pete Stott and Steve Burgess deal with defective coaches, and the site manager has his hands full with a blazing trailer (T) (4535)



The Leonardo DiCaprio "lookalike" living rent-free with his mother (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Family Feuds** Documentary dissecting various instances of domestic disharmony (T) (4055)
10.00 Holidays from Hell (r) (59055)
10.30 Pleasure Island The staff go on full alert as a hurricane threatens to hit the resort (5/6) (T) (31603)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (317582)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (908581)
11.30 Wonderful You Nancy gives Henry an ultimatum (6/7) (r) (T) (878061)
12.30am WALES: We Can Work It Out Consumer reports (84543)
12.35 WEST: ITV at Fleadh Musical highlights (r) (6477185)
1.00 WALES: Public Morals Corinne's boyfriend is arrested (r) (3546630)
1.35 Club@vision (6439036)
2.15 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (86017)
2.45 Baywatch (r) (T) (2569272)
3.40 Trisha Studio discussion (T) (1523291)
4.40 ITV Nightscreen (83769727)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (27307)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (9147968) **12.55 Lie Detector** (T) (2528784) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4792500) **2.10-2.40 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (89765871) **3.15-3.20 Central News** (T) (5746177) **5.30 Surprise Gardeners** (T) (790) **6.00-6.30 Central News at Six;** Weather (T) (603) **11.20-11.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (908581) **11.30 Late Tackle** (878061) **12.35am FILM: Fugitive Nights: Danger in the Desert** (T) (258475) **2.20 Club@vision** (5001272) **3.00 Box Office America** (82713901) **3.25 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (82723388) **3.55 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6355104) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (9467982)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm Westcountry News** (T) (7929239) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (9228887) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live;** Weather (T) (2528784) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4792500) **2.10-2.40 Lie Detector** (T) (89765871) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (5746177) **4.59-5.00 Birthday People** (2746072) **5.30 Westcountry Weekend** (T) (790) **6.00 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (603) **11.20-11.30 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (908581) **11.30-1.35 FILM: Blow Out** (69820581)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7929239) **12.55-1.30 Shortland Street** (1602871) **5.25 The Listings** (8022992) **5.30 Streetwise** (790) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (603) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (625697) **11.20-11.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (908581) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (27307)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9223332) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7929239) **12.55-1.30 Shortland Street** (1602871) **5.29 Anglia Air Watch** (8022992) **5.30 The Wensum Year** (r) (790) **5.58 Anglia Weather** (T) (705018) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (603) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (522210) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (908581)

S4C

Starts. **6.00am Sesame Street** (86126210) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69865351) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (T) (92005142) **9.05 Saved By the Bell** (T) (92932158) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93226993) **10.00 CatDog** (T) (54540210) **10.20 Boy Meets World** (T) (54639158) **10.45 Moesha** (T) (84179103) **11.15 The Bigger Breakfast** (25160210) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90577245) **12.00 Home Improvement** (T) (63233413) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (93124581) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69762210) **1.30 Earthscape** (T) (82944055) **1.35 FILM: Wuthering Heights** (T) (57976142) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99258264) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99164871) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99160055) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41542968) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99257535) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49618055) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39499500) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41628332) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99161784) **8.00 Galw'r Fet** (T) (41531852) **8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (41623887) **9.00 Friends** (T) (90483852) ***9.30 Ramsay's Boiling Point*** (5/5) (T) (93217245) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (51909500) **10.35 Frasier** (T) (81064603) **11.05** *So Graham Norton* (T) (87471790) **11.45 TFI Friday** (75017264) **12.50am 4 Later;** Pulp (51440272) **1.10 Flava** (83709456) **1.45 The Mod Squad** (58392475) **2.45 Vids** (r) (18807456) **3.15 FILM: Lust for a Vampire** (21114036) **4.50 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5802055)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (58429)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3186622)
9.05 Saved by the Bell (7854239)
9.30 Sam and Max (76264)
10.00 CatDog (3869516)
10.20 Boy Meets World (T) (3878264)
10.45 Moesha (576245)
11.15 The Bigger Breakfast (6325264)
11.30 Powerhouse (1806)
12.00 Sesame Street (r) (T) (56968)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (74852)
1.00 Caroline in the City Richard loses his new patron (51516)
1.30 Little Gems (T) (58942806)
1.45 Julie (1956) FILM A woman makes a terrifying discovery and fears that her new husband is trying to kill her. Chilling drama, starring Doris Day. Directed by Andrew L Stone (93860158)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (531)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (968)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7492622)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9174055)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (332)
6.00 TFI Friday Sharleen from Texas chats to Chris Evans. Plus, music by Boyzone, Texas and UB40 (82871)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (629535)
7.55 The A-Z of Scotland Issues concerning the unemployed to Zetland (T) (581429)
8.00 Trading Up Car-swapping game show (5/6) (T) (7582)
8.30 Brookside Lindsey beats a hasty retreat (T) (2177)



Lisa Kudrow stars as Phoebe and her twin sister Ursula (9pm)

9.00 Friends Phoebe's identical twin pays a visit, leading to multiple mishaps and misunderstandings (r) (T) (7413)
9.30 Smack the Pony Offbeat sketch show, starring Fiona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips (4/7) (T) (67516)
10.00 CHOICE **Frasier** Niles hires Roz's lawyer friend (T) (57697)
10.30 So Graham Norton With Fern Britton Last in series (916582)
11.10 CHOICE **The Adam and Joe Show** New series. Offbeat comedy duo Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish present their latest home-made TV show, featuring a Toy Movie entitled "Saving Private Lion" (833158)
11.40 TFI Friday Shown earlier (r) (715500)
12.45am 4 Later Introduction, Pulp (1908369)
1.05 Flava The black music scene (3543543)
1.40 The Mod Squad Cop drama (3552291)
2.40 Vids Video review (r) (5534949)
3.10 Lust for a Vampire (1970) FILM A well-to-do girl in a private school turns out to be a blood-sucking creature of the night. Hammer shocker, with Ralph Bates. Directed by Jimmy Sangster (678562)
4.45 The Beat Manifesto An aspiring hippie leaves his rural background for the high life in New York (83759340)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5730177)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (2680993)
7.30 Milkshake! (2478351)
7.35 Muppet Babies (r) (4809264)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8516697)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (8515968)
9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (8602448)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6609245)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4092719)
11.10 Leeza (r) (3684784)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8519784)
12.30pm Family Affairs Gabby puts Pete on the spot (r) (T); 5 News Update (8689023)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful James falls out with Maggie (T) (2689264)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9039564)
2.00 McMillan and Wife: Blues for Sally M (TVM 1973) FILM The detective duo's suspicions are aroused when a musician dedicates a special composition to Mrs McMillan. With Rock Hudson. Directed by Bob Lewis (76781429)
3.20 West Point Story (1950) FILM Musical comedy, starring James Cagney as an unemployed Broadway director who agrees to stage an amateur show at the famous military academy. Directed by Roy Del Ruth (10202210)
5.20 5 News (59091245)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6987448)
6.00 5 News and Sport; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (6977061)
6.30 Family Affairs Simon reveals Pam's case has been dropped (T) (6895413)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael is charged with murder (r) (2821697)
7.30 Aussie Birds Spectacular footage of the osprey in action (T) (6891697)
8.00 Was It Good for You? Brittany is the chosen destination for two groups of holiday-makers (2903245)
8.30 Nick's Quest Vampire bats attract Nick Baker to the tropical forests of Belize, where the bloodthirsty creatures exist in great numbers (r) (T) (2819852)
9.00 The Heart of the Lie (TVM 1991) FILM Lindsay Frost stars as a police officer framed by colleagues for the murder of her husband's ex-wife and sentenced to life imprisonment. Fact-based drama, with Timothy Busfield and John Karlen. Directed by Noel Nosseck (T); 5 News Update (23386516)
10.40 Lexx: The Dark Zone Stories The crew touch down on a planet used as a rubbish dump (r) (3570239)
11.40 In Dark Places (1997) FILM A vengeful woman plots to kill off her last remaining relative when she finds out he has inherited the family fortune. Thriller, starring Joan Severance. Directed by James Burke (3425264)
1.30am The Hotel New Hampshire (1984) FILM Comic fantasy exploring a family's journey of self-discovery when they take on the job of running a hotel. With Beau Bridges, Rob Lowe and Jodie Foster. Directed by Tony Richardson (3027678)
3.25 Bullet for a Badman (1964) FILM A disgraced Texas Ranger escapes from prison and sets out to prove his innocence. Western, with Audie Murphy. Directed by R.G Springsteen (87699388)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (r) (6601727)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE
7.00am Count Duckula (12697) **7.30** Grimmy (97332) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (95871) **8.30** Godzilla (94142) **9.00** Pokemon (81622) **9.30** The Simpsons (29226) **10.00** Shadow Raiders (70177) **10.30** Xena: Warrior Princess (61622) **11.30** Muppets Tonight (20581) **12.00** Tarzan: The Epic Adventures (15177) **1.00pm** Mad About You (11968) **1.30** Jeopardy (22413) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (71806) **3.00** Jenny Jones (31697) **4.00** Pokemon (6210) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (8622) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (3055) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (6887) **6.30** Friends (4239) **7.00** The Simpsons (9564) **7.30** The Simpsons (9351) **8.00** *The Simpsons* (2332) **8.30** The Simpsons (5239) **9.00** Echo of Warning (47790) **10.00** Cops (79887) **10.30** Cops (88535) **11.00** Friends (17061) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (83966) **12.30am** Law and Order (77475) **1.30** Long Play (4467185)

SKY BOX OFFICE
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SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Sphere (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Mousehunt (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Hard Rain (1998)

SKY PREMIER
6.00am Napoleon and Samantha (1972) (46413) **8.00 The Secret Agent Club (1996)** (80500) **10.00 Contact (1997)** (65142) **12.30 Love at Large (1990)** (74581) **2.30 Napoleon and Samantha (1972)** (19535) **4.30 The Secret Agent Club (1996)** (79066) **6.00 Indiscretion of an American Housewife (1998)** (59535) **8.00 Contact (1997)** (754239) **10.30 Absolute Power (1997)** (43687142) **12.35am Criminal Law (1989)** (266369) **2.30 Postcards from the Edge (1990)** (540974) **4.15 Indiscretion of an American Housewife (1998)** (166678)

SKY MOVIEMAX
5.30am No More Baths! (1997) (73328351) **7.10 Behind the Waterfall (1995)** (80946158) **9.00 Lovestruck (1996)** (75622) **11.00 A Fight for Justice (1996)** (33448) **1.00 Behind the Waterfall (1995)** (73210) **3.00 Lovestruck (1996)** (87784) **5.00 A Fight for Justice (1996)** (84719) **7.00** P:Review (5852) **7.30** How to Get Ahead in Film (1719) **8.00 Days of Thunder (1990)** (50210) **10.00 Maximum Risk (1997)** (164806) **11.40 Lethal Weapon II (1989)** (665245) **1.35am Die Hard II: Die Harder (1990)** (51471388) **3.40 Hard to Kill (1990)** (188765)

SKY CINEMA
4.00pm Saps at Sea (1940) (7293245) **5.00** The Directors: The Films of Ron Howard (7109581) **6.00 Tarzan and the Leopard Woman (1946)** (7335142) **7.30 Howards End (1992)** (9616852) **10.00 Charlie Bubbles (1967)** (7513806) **11.45 Big Jim McLain (1952)** (1576871) **1.20am The Black Arrow (1948)** (13640814) **2.40 Sons of the Desert (1934)** (45721098) **3.50 Africa Screams (1949)** (35085630)

FILMFOUR
6.00pm Short Films (8252210) **8.00** ***Memoirs of an Invisible Man (1992)*** (33676719) **9.40** Joyride (6139055) **10.00 Mute Witness (1995)** (3758326) **11.40** Last Days of a Condemned Man (5160023) **12.00 Benny's Video (1992)** (9988746) **1.50am Delicatessen (1990)** (3569104) **3.30 Good Morning, Vietnam (1987)** (4396611) **6.00** *Close*

TNT
9.00pm WCW Nitro (65586061) **11.35** WCW Thunder (40801500) **1.15am The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1968)** (80765456) **3.15 Arturo's Island (1963)** (70193369) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00am *Sports Centre* **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Spanish Football **11.30** What a Weekend **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Football League Review **1.00** Futbol Mundial **1.30** American Football **2.00** Pavilion End **2.30** What a Weekend **3.00** The Rugby Club **4.00** *Trans World Sport* **5.00** Futbol Mundial **5.30** What A Weekend **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** Live Super League **9.30** World Sport Special **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Hold the Back Page **12.00** Premier League Preview **12.30am** Sports Centre **1.30** Wrestling **3.30** Friday Night Football **5.30** World Sport

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Aerobics **7.30** *Sports Centre* **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Rebel Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Formula Three **9.30** Formula Palmer Audi **10.00** The Rugby Club **11.00** *Sports Auction Preview* **11.30** Live International Cricket **8.00pm** Live US Golf **9.00** Live US Golf **11.30** Moto-Plus **12.00** NFL Europe **12.30am** Friday Night Football **2.00** Sports Centre **3.00** Hold the Back Page **4.00** Super League **5.00** Moto-Plus **5.30** Extreme Sailing

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00am Trans World Sport **1.00pm** Formula Palmer Audi **1.30** Rebel Sports **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **3.30** Formula Three **4.00** Formula Palmer Audi **4.30** NFL Europe **5.00** Live Golf **7.30** Live Friday Night Football: Barnsley v Sunderland **10.00** World Wrestling Federation: Raw **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT
6.00am Live Motorcycling **7.00** Live Motorcycling **8.15** Live Motorcycling **9.15** Football **11.30** Motorcycling **1.30pm** Live Tennis **4.30** Live Weightlifting **6.15** Motorcycling **7.00** Live Weightlifting **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Motorcycling **11.00** Fencing **12.00** *Motocross* **12.30am** *Close*

UK GOLD
7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** Dangerfield **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** *Last of the Summer Wine* **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** The Thin Blue Line **9.40** Specially Selected Canned Carrot **10.40** Ruby Wax Meets the Duchess of York **11.25** The Bill **12.25am** Dr Who Omnibus **2.10** Dad's Army **2.30** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS
6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** *Families* **8.30** *Mind Your Language* **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** *The Professionals* **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The *Sweeney* **10.00** *Hale and Pace* **10.30** *The Comedians* **11.00** Men and Motors

The classic sci-fi story is brought up to date in John Carpenter's comedy *Memoirs of an Invisible Man* (FilmFour, 8pm)

CARLTON SELECT
5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine on Harvey Moon **8.00** Blue Heelers **9.00** Frank Stubbs Promotes **10.00** The Good Sex Guide **10.30** The Screen **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** The Curse of King Tutankhamen's Tomb **2.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL
6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Talespin **7.00** 101 Dalmatians **7.25** *Classic Toons* **7.30** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Timon and Pumbaa **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Hercules: The TV Show **9.30** Hercules: The TV Show **10.00** Boy Meets World **10.30** Boy Meets World **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Smart Guy **12.00** Disney on Demand **12.30pm** Disney *on Demand* **1.00** *Disney on Demand* **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of *Winnie the Pooh* **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** **FILM: Balloon Farm (1997)** **8.30** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.15** Dinosaurs ***10.00*** *Home Improvement* **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by An Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK
6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** *Spiderman* **7.20** *Oggy and the Cockroaches* **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The *Incredible Hulk* **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches ***7.00*** *Close*

NICKELODEON
6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** *Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine* **2.30** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack **7.00** Close

TROUBLE
7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** Weird Science **1.00** In the House **1.30** Tempestt **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **5.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **6.00** Sweet Valley High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO
8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00** **FILM: Confessions from the David Galaxy Affair (1979)** **1.00am** *Erotic Confessions* **1.30** Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00** **FILM: Pentathlon (1994)** **5.00** Extreme Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY
7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl *11.30 Spin City* **12.00** *Late Night with David Letterman* **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY
7.30am Bloomberg Information TV **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** Twilight Zone **12.30pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** *Amazing Stories* **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** *New Alfred Hitchcock* **7.00** Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: The Raven **9.30** The Hunger **10.00** **FILM: Timecop (1994)** **12.00** Dangaioh **1.30am** Amazing Stories **2.00** Cybernet **2.30** 100 Years of Horror **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE
6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Potted History with Antony Henn **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of *Painting* **9.30** *Grow for It* **10.00** Instant gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country: Get Stuck In

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Connections **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Fightline **8.00** Tarantulas and Their *Venomous Relations* **9.00** *Secrets of the Deep* **10.00** Bear Attack **11.00** Dolphin Warriors **12.00** Animal Weapons **1.00am** Fightline **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET
12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Wild Guide **1.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **2.00** Crocodile Hunter **3.00** Crocodile Hunter **4.00** Crocodile Hunter **5.00** Twisted Tales **5.30** *Wild Guide* **6.00** Wild, wild Reptiles **7.00** River Dinosaur **8.00** Crocodile Hunter **9.00** Crocodile Hunter **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** The Big Animal Show **11.30** Crocodile Hunter **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
7.00pm Father of Camels **7.30** Beeman **8.00** The Shark Files: Operation Shark Attack **9.00** Insecta: Silent Partners **9.30** *Resplendent Isle* **10.00** *King Koala* **11.00** Ivory Pigs **12.00** Greed, Guns and Wildlife

HISTORY
4.00pm World War One: Germany's Secret Gambles **5.00** The Statue of Liberty **6.00** Curse on the Gypsies **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** Biography: Nicolae Ceausescu

CARLTON FOOD
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **10.30** So You Think You Can't Cook **11.00** Worrall Thompson **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** French Lunch **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Gordon Ramsay **2.00** Can't Stand the Heat **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Food Factory **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** A Year at Ballymaloe **4.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **5.00** Close

LIVING
6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** *Special Babies* **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** The Heat Is On **12.10pm** Through the *Keyhole* **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** *LA Law* **9.00 FILM: Nightmare (1991)** **11.00** Sexdasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV
5.30am Guldasta **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry **6.30** Mast Mast Show **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** Pakistan News **8.30** Tara **2** **9.00** Adhikar **10.00** Yeh Zindagi **11.00** Zaike ka Safar **11.30** Sharjah Cup: The Final **3.30pm** It's My Choice **4.00** Sharjah Cup: The Final **8.00** *News* **8.30** Aashirwad **9.30** **FILM: Hindi Movie: Abhimaan** **12.00** News **12.30am** Ru-Ba-Ru **1.00** X-Zone **2.00** **FILM: Hindi Movie: Jai Vikranta**



LONDON MARATHON 50
Brown approaches big event in humble frame of mind

SPORT

CRICKET 46, 47
Lewis puts champions in pole position at Chelmsford



FRIDAY APRIL 16 1999

Glorious goal by Giggs may act as catalyst for Ferguson's revitalised team

Spirited United thirsting after a treble

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A PART of them wanted to live for the moment, to exult in what they had achieved, to praise a goal in a million and a rare triumph over Arsenal in an FA Cup semi-final replay that had turned into a drama-packed classic. Even as they emerged from a riotous dressing-room and walked into the embraces of their families, though, the Manchester United players were already aware that their Villa Park victory might carry a more lasting significance.

They may have arrived back in Manchester at 2am, but many of them found it hard to get any sleep for the remainder of Wednesday night because the adrenalin was still pumping through them. By yesterday lunchtime, their mood had stiffened. The excitement was tempered by determination and a hard-edged belief that their first victory over their greatest rivals in seven attempts could act as a springboard for the last stages of their assault on an unprecedented treble.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, may be wary of such thoughts, particularly after his horse, Candleriggs, a clear favourite in the 3.45 at Newmarket yesterday, trailed in sixth. He knows that until Ryan Giggs catapulted them to Wembley with his inspirational goal in the second period of extra time, their season had been threatening to lurch towards implosion.

United were looking drained by the weight of expectation and the stream of crucial matches flowing inexorably towards them. Giggs and David Beckham appeared stale, Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole had hit the first barren spell of their prolific partnership. They were being held together by the industry of Roy Keane — whose sending-off in the replay will lead to a one-match ban — and the form of Peter Schmeichel.

Wednesday has changed all that. The victory over Arsenal may have sapped their reserves of strength in some ways, but in others it has acted like a rest cure. United are a team reinvigorated, ready to attack the last phase of their season, not just endure it.

Ferguson deserves much of the credit. His decision to field Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer instead of Cole and Yorke raised eyebrows and briefly reopened the debate about how seriously he was taking the competition. Sheringham, though, played superbly in the first half, tearing the Arsenal defence apart with his deft passes and clever runs as if they were novices, not the most parsimonious back four in Europe. Ferguson will probably revert to Cole and Yorke in the next few games, but Sheringham's performance should have rid Yorke's game of the hints of complacency that were beginning to creep into it.

Frankie Dettori, a committed Arsenal fan and the big-race winner at Newmarket yesterday, playfully gets to grips with Ferguson, the United manager. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

United will be clear favourites to lift the FA Cup at Wembley on May 22 against a Newcastle United side that is in transition. That, in theory at least, should be the easiest part. Their position in the race for the FA Carling Premiership was also strengthened on Wednesday night, not just by Chelsea failing to leapfrog them at the top of the table by drawing 0-0 away to Middlesbrough, but also by the psychological advantage they established over Arsenal.

If victory acted as an elixir for United, defeat will have tasted like poison for Arsène Wenger's side. It may take some time for them to recover and they will have to pay particular heed to the wellbeing of their most influential forward, Dennis Bergkamp.

Bergkamp had set his heart on reaching Wembley after a hamstring injury forced him to miss the final last season. He took the penalty in the last minute of normal time that would surely have won the match for Arsenal, but his kick was saved by Schmeichel.

Bergkamp, usually the soul of co-operation, politely declined to speak to the media afterwards, so great was his disappointment. "We are all hurting like hell at the moment," Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal left back, said, "but we have to put this behind us and press on in the league. We are a resilient side. We will not let this affect us."

United, too, are determined to forge on. It is likely that Giggs, who left Villa Park on crutches after sustaining an ankle injury, will miss the Premiership match against Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford tomorrow. Schmeichel, who suffered a groin injury, and Beckham may also be absent. All, though, are likely to be fit for the biggest test of all, the second leg of the European Cup semi-final against Juventus in Turin on Wednesday. Winning the domestic Double would lose some of its sheen if they fail in their quest for the trophy that means more to them than any other.

It was Giggs who gave them hope in that tie, too, scoring the late equaliser that rescued them in the first leg after they had been outplayed in the first half. If their confidence was dented by that result, Giggs has brought it flooding back. United feel as though they can beat anyone again. The treble, the impossible dream, is edging closer.

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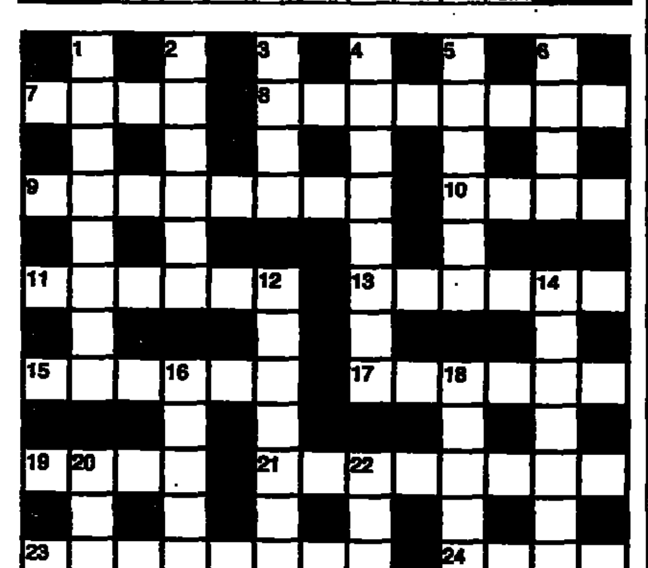
TREBLES AND STRIFE

MANY have tried and only one has succeeded. Achieving any sort of "treble" of a championship and two cups, domestic or European, has eluded many of the great British teams since the war:

1957: MANCHESTER UNITED: League 1st, FA Cup runners-up, European Cup semi-finals.
1970: LEEDS UNITED: League 2nd, FA Cup runners-up, European Cup semi-finals.
1977: LIVERPOOL: League 1st, European Cup winners, FA Cup runners-up.
1981: IPSWICH TOWN: Uefa Cup winners, League 2nd, FA Cup semi-finals.
1985: EVERTON: League 1st, Cup Winners' Cup, FA Cup runners-up.
1986: LIVERPOOL: League 1st, FA Cup winners, League Cup semi-finals.
1994: MANCHESTER UNITED: League 1st, FA Cup winners, League Cup runners-up.

Bucking the trend were **LIVERPOOL**, under Joe Fagan, who won a "treble" of the League championship, the League Cup and the European Cup in 1984.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1693

ACROSS
7 Blood (shed) (4)
8 Sluggishness (8)
9 *Porgy and Bess* composer (8)
10 Benefit cheque (4)
11 Remained; prevented (6)
13 Yearbook (6)
15 Apply (design) in relief (6)
17 Tending to sag (6)
19 Poke (4)
21 A shrub: *so rare - my! (anag.)* (8)
23 Impediment (8)
24 Against; an opponent (4)

DOWN
1 Impetus of movement (8)
2 Having spirited determination (6)
3 Run smoothly (4)
4 A classic ballad; flag (8)
5 Wait; hold tightly (4,2)
6 Borodin's Prince (4)
12 Divert attention (8)
14 Roughness of temper (8)
16 Quirk (6)
18 Military, German pub band sound (6)
20 Formal gown (4)
22 Killed; slide out of control (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1692
ACROSS: 1 Fathom 5 Stalag 8 Juju 9 Campbell 10 Virtuoso 12 Tote 13 Fedora 15 Tartan 17 Wain 19 Domestic 21 Outburst 23 Lino 24 Lesson 25 Retune
DOWN: 2 Abusive 3 Haunt 4 Macdonald 5 Sum 6 Arbiter 7 Allot 11 Octameter 14 Omnibus 16 Avignon 18 Acute 20 Split 22 Run



Cheltenham fatality fails to dull Bradley's optimistic nature

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

CONTROVERSY can breed popularity but, as Graham Bradley discovered yesterday, it cannot bring contentment. Bradley found the racing community gathering supportively behind him at Cheltenham, but the ride that may prove to be his last ended in distress, the horse dead and the jockey brought back by ambulance.

Instead of an uplifting intermission to his harrowing week, it was all in keeping with the ordeal for Bradley. Charged, on Tuesday, with conspiracy to cheat by losing a race deliberately, he had shown the stoical side of his character by turning up to partner Country Star 24 hours before the Jockey Club decides if his licence should be withdrawn.

There was a wave of sympathy, a sense of indignation on his behalf, a common will to see him win. He was cheered into the weighing-room by his fellow jockeys and spontaneous applause broke out as he mounted and circled the parade ring on the course where he has tasted the high life as a winner of the Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle. But there the favoured script stalled.

Country Star was in front, with three fences to jump in the Nicholson Holman Cup, when he broke a hind leg on the flat in one of those inexplicable accidents that can scar a day's racing. Bradley was deposited on the turf, his dignity insulted once again, and within minutes the horse had been humanely put down.

Bradley, 38, had arrived in the lunchtime sunshine, three hours before his one scheduled ride. Chauffeured by Tony McCoy, the champion jockey, his lodger and greatest admirer, he strolled through the gates arm-in-arm with girlfriend Amanda Wilson, incorrigibly cheerful. "I wasn't going to duck this," he said. "If I'm going to go out, I want it to be on a winner."

Bradley after yesterday's fall

The belief that he would do so strengthened through the afternoon, as did the stated support of his peers. Richard Dunwoody, the most prolific National Hunt jockey in history, summed up the feeling. "It would be dreadful if they took his licence away," he said. "I know people will say this is just the lads sticking together, but this is racing talking, not just the weighing-room."

When Dean Gallagher, himself released from police bail in the same inquiry only last month, won the preceding race, the day was developing a symmetry of its own. The fact that Country Star was part-owned by Mrs Caroline Brooks, mother of Bradley's former boss, Charlie, reinforced the impression.

Bradley was met by a small scrum of cameras as he emerged from the weighing-room. His colleagues pushed him forward to lead them out, like a cricketer being promoted to captain for his farewell match. There will be a stigma to all this, no matter its outcome, but for one day at least Bradley must have felt surrounded by friends.

It was different when he returned, suddenly stripped of consolation. Brooks, cleared by the police on the day that Bradley was charged, had come to support both his mother and former jockey. Now, distraught at the outcome, he was determined to have his say.

"Everyone tells me I should say nothing, but I am appalled by the situation in which Brad finds himself. He was riding one of my horses in the race for which they have charged him and I have no doubt he has done nothing wrong. I am 100 per cent behind him, but the trouble with these things is that they take so long and take such a toll of everyone involved."

Racing's professionals are rushing to declare that Bradley is no criminal. The wheels of justice will take somewhat longer and, in the meantime, he could well be deprived of his livelihood. As he left Cheltenham, he remained optimistic. "I've got my fingers crossed and I'm hopeful I will get a good result tomorrow, so that I can go on doing what I have loved for the past 20 years," he said.

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